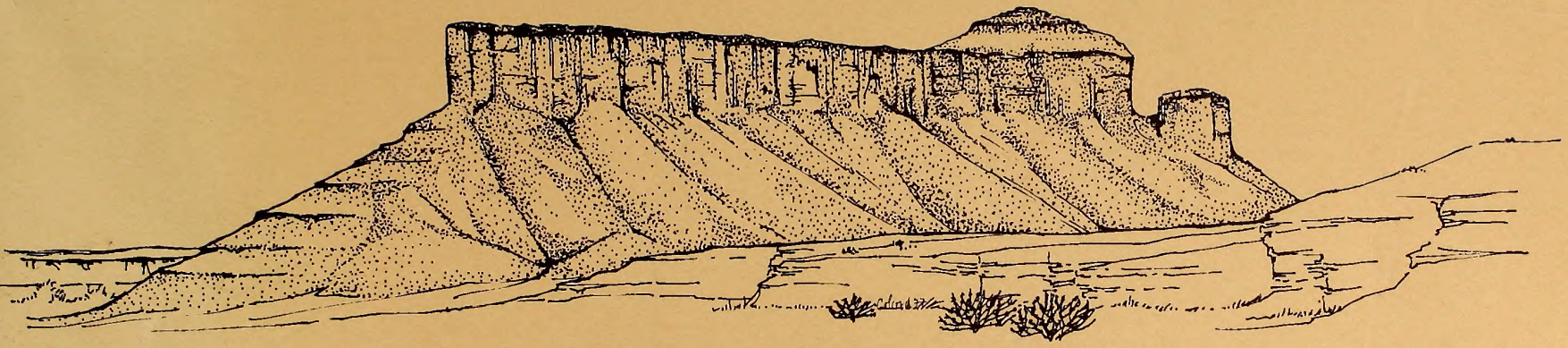
BLM LIBRARY
88065634



# Management Guidelines for Public Lands Whitewater Planning Area Grand Junction District, Colorado

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

Open Letter to the Public: October 1977

This brochure summarizes the land-use decisions that were made for the Public Lands of the Whitewater Planning Area in 1977. These decisions will serve as guidelines for effective management of the Public Lands.

After gathering all available resource information, BLM contacted and consulted with individuals of the communities, and officials of local, State and Federal agencies to obtain their ideas and opinions as to the issues, problems and opportunities that should be considered in planning for the use of 402,000 acres of Public Lands administered by the BLM. Sixteen public meetings were held in various locations in December of 1975; February, March and October of 1976; and January of 1977. These meetings were attended by approximately 275 people. A wide variety of oral and written comments were received from the public and other agencies. These comments were analyzed and used to assist in identifying and resolving conflicts, and in making the land-use decisions for this area.

One point we would like to stress is that these decisions are land use guides; thus they are flexible and may change as new or additional information becomes available. Planning for management of the Public Lands is a dynamic process, relying on active public involvement. As an interested citizen, you should be encouraged to know that any information that BLM receives from the public will be used to shape these management guidelines so that they are kept current. The Public Lands are your heritage and are important to you and future generations.

The complete Management Framework Plan, with maps and overlays, is available for review at our Grand Junction Resource Area Office, Horizon Building, 764 Horizon Drive, Grand Junction, Colorado. Our staff is available from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for holidays. Our telephone number is 303 243-6552.

We wish to thank everyone who got involved in developing this plan and look forward to continued effort to ensure that together we can make these decisions responsive to the changing needs of the Nation and Western Colorado.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Owen
Grand Junction District Manager
Bureau of Land Management

11145420
88065634
HD
243
.C6
U57
1977

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Map of Whitewater Planning Area . . . . . iv

General Description . . . . . 1

Major Issues and Problems . . . . . 2

Resources and Significant MFP Decisions . . . . . 7

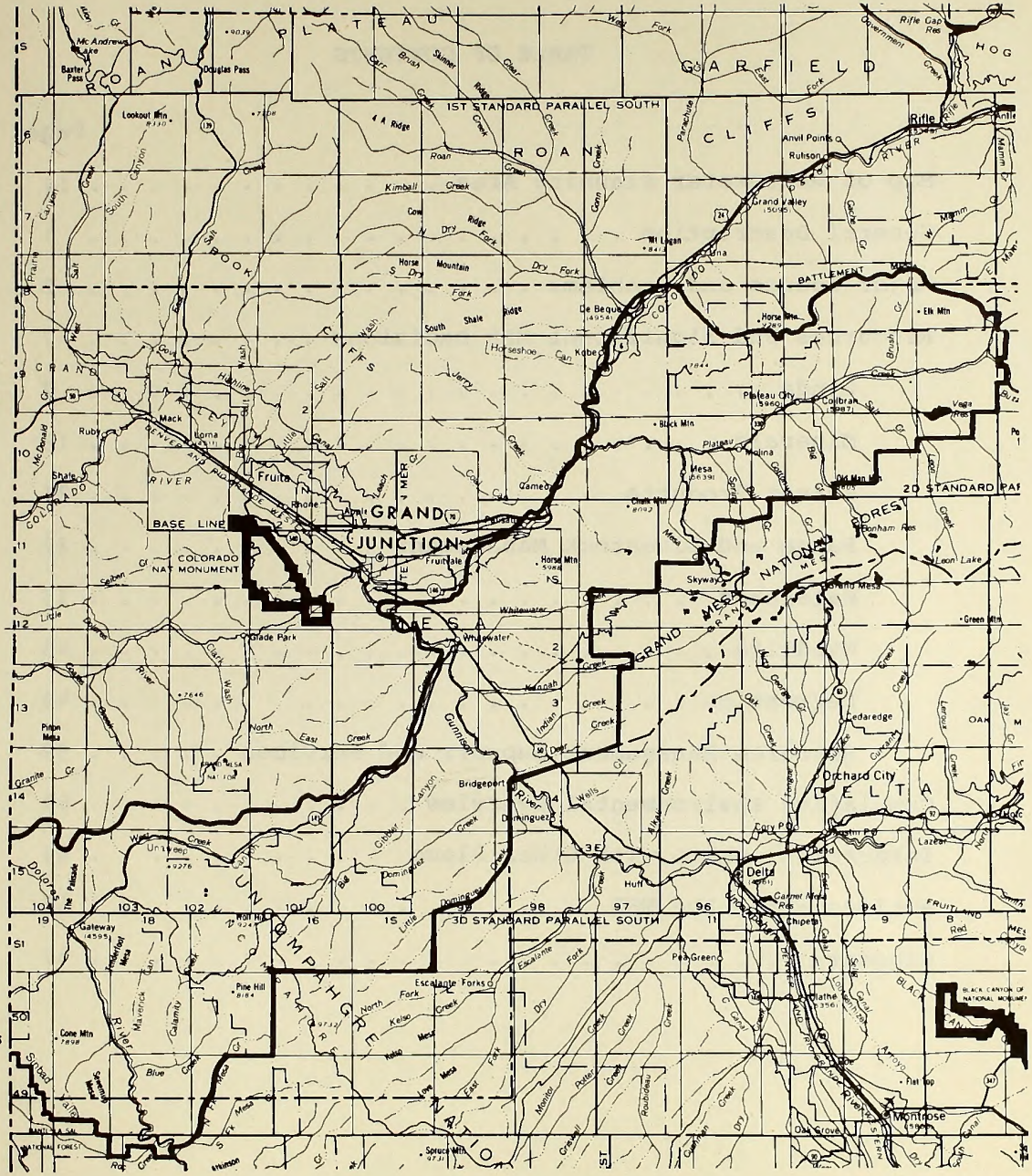
- Lands . . . . . 7
- Minerals . . . . . 15
- Forest Products . . . . . 21
- Range and Livestock Management . . . . . 27
- Watershed . . . . . 35
- Wildlife . . . . . 43
- Recreation . . . . . 49
- Resource Management Support and Services . . . . . 59

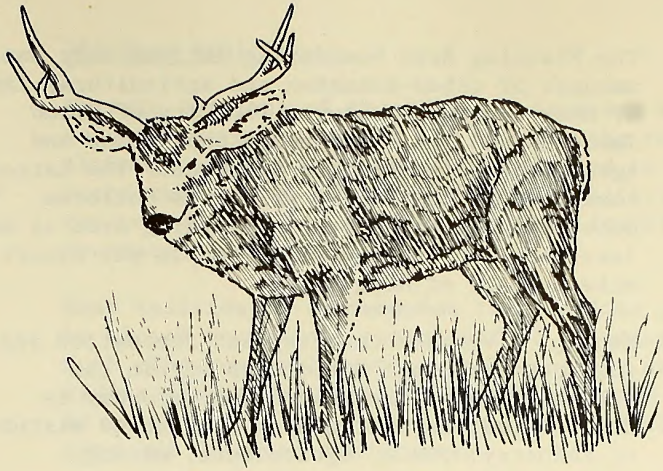
Cumulative Environmental Overview . . . . . 63

Interrelationship with Other Plans . . . . . 63

Actions after the MFP . . . . . 65

Glossary . . . . . 67


UTAH
WHITEWATER
PLANNING AREA
N
0 1 2 3 miles
Scale
GRAND JUNCTION
COLORADO NAT MONUMENT
BASE LINE
1ST STANDARD PARALLEL SOUTH
3D STANDARD PARALLEL SOUTH
2D STANDARD PAR
ROAN PLATEAU
ROAN CLIFFS
GARFIELD
MESA
DELTA
MONTROSE
UNCOMPAHGRE NATIONAL FOREST
GRAND MESA NATIONAL FOREST
COLORADO RIVER
GUNNISON RIVER
DOLORES RIVER
Rifle
Anvil Points
Ruhlson
Grand Valley
Parachute
Battlement Mesa
Plateau City
Collbran
Mesa
Fruita
Loma
Mack
Clifton
Whitewater
Orchard City
Delta
Hotchkiss
Paonia
Crawford
Bridgeport
Cedaredge
Skyway
Leon Lake
Glade Park
Piñon Mesa
Gateway
Escalante Forks
Pea Green
Chipeta
Olathe
Montrose
Old Grove
Spring Creek
Cone Mtn
Pine Hill
Lookout Mtn
Douglas Pass
Baxter Pass
Mc Andrews Lake
Rifle Gap Res
Bonham Res
Garnet Mesa Res
Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument
Kimball Creek
Horse Mountain
Dry Fork
Horseshoe Can
Jerry Wash
Shale Ridge
Salt Wash
Little Salt Wash
Parachute Creek
Roan Creek
Government Creek
Brush Creek
Sulphur Creek
Cow Ridge
Kobey
De Beque
Horse Mtn
Elk Mtn
Black Mtn
Molina
Plateau
Gamebird
Chalk Mtn
Horse Mtn
Whitewater
Kannah Creek
Indian Creek
Leroux Creek
Big Creek
Oak Creek
Surface Creek
Cottonwood Creek
Roubideau Creek
Dominguez Creek
Escalante Creek
Kelso Creek
Peters Creek
Tabeguache Creek
Uncompahgre River
Gunnison River
Dolores River
Colorado River
Big Blue
Little Blue
Blue Creek
Maverick Creek
Calamity Creek
Spring Creek
Roubideau
Montrose
Flat Top
Green Mtn
Lazear
Cory
Austin
Read
Hotchkiss
Crawford
Paonia
Lamborn
Hall
Huff
Wells
Wolf Hill
Uncompahgre Plateau
Mesa
Creek
Canyon
Wash
Ridge
Fork
Gulch
Arroyo
Basin
Park
Valley
Hill
Butte
Peak
Knob
Rim
Cliffs
Plateau
Mountain
Range
Reservoir
Res
Dam
Ditch
Canal
Lake
Trail
Road
Highway
Railroad
Township
Section
Boundary
Forest
Monument
Area
Scale



## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Whitewater Planning Area extends from the eastern portion through the southwestern portion of Mesa County and includes a small segment of northwestern Montrose County. The area extends from northeast of the town of Collbran to southwest of the town of Gateway and is approximately 90 miles long by 14 miles wide. (See location map.) It contains about 632,000 acres of which approximately 402,000 acres are Public Lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Topography of the Planning Area varies from gently sloping land in the Plateau Valley to rugged, sheer-walled canyons and mesas in other sections. Elevation ranges from 4,500 feet along the Dolores River at the Utah border to almost 10,000 feet near Palisade Point on Grand Mesa. Major topographic features within the Planning Area include: the Colorado, Gunnison and Dolores Rivers; Grand Mesa; Uncompahgre Plateau; Sewemup Mesa; and the Palisade.

Climate in the Whitewater Planning Area is quite variable, with precipitation and temperature fluctuations occuring as a result of topographic differences. Annual precipitation varies from less than 8" in the lower elevations to more than 20" at the higher elevations. Temperatures vary from lows below 0° F to highs above 90° F.

Topographic and climatic influences are particularly important to the area's vegetative resources, largely determining the conditions which are suitable for growth of many types of plant communities. Pinon-juniper communities predominate with other vegetation types ranging from salt desert shrub to aspen-mountain shrub. Ponderosa pine are found in scattered areas at higher elevations.

The area helps to support herds of antelope, deer and elk as well as populations of mountain lion, black bear, sage grouse and waterfowl. Predators commonly found include bobcats and coyotes.

The Planning Area boundaries include only small amounts of urban-suburban and agricultural lands of Mesa County. However, the City of Grand Junction and its surrounding population and agricultural centers are adjacent. The largest community in the Planning Area is Collbran. The population density for the Planning Area is much less than the average of 19 people per square mile for all of Mesa County.

Mining, livestock ranching and recreation are the most important activities within the Planning Area. The Mesa County economy is diversified, depending upon a balanced mixture of industry, trade, agriculture, mining, tourism and government employment.

## MAJOR ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

This section summarizes the major land use and resource management issues and problems that were addressed in the Management Framework Plan (MFP).

### Wildland Areas

Three areas within the Whitewater Planning Area generated considerable public interest and inquiry concerning their potential for "primitive area" designation. Proposals for these areas were sponsored by the University of Colorado Wilderness Study Group and endorsed by the Colorado Wilderness Study Group, the Colorado Open Space Council and the Wilderness Society. The proposals included:

1. Sewemup Mesa - a 16,000 acre flat-topped mesa located south of Gateway;

2. Dominguez Creeks - a 45,000 acre area encompassing Big and Little Dominguez and Escalante Creeks south of Whitewater and including 17,000 acres of Public Lands administered by the Montrose District of the BLM; and

3. Gateway-Palisade - a 14,240 acre parcel of Public Land near Gateway embracing a geological formation known as the Palisade.

These three areas have been identified in this interdisciplinary land-use plan as having "wildland" values. As used in our planning efforts, the term "wildland" is meant to define lands having potential for designation as natural environment areas, natural landmarks, natural areas, wilderness, or other similar recreation lands designation, but does not imply specific capabilities for wilderness preservation alone. Further anlyses of these areas will be directed by both future Bureau planning efforts and the developing wilderness review process mandated by Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

In addition, the land use plan further recognized that these areas are valuable for mineral development, livestock grazing and forest management.

## Watershed Rehabilitation

As a result of past grazing by livestock and wildlife, mineral development and natural factors, 36 percent of the Planning Area is in a critical erosion condition, 45 percent in moderate and only 20 percent of the Public Lands are in the slight erosion condition class.

The most significant problems are in the Gateway vicinity where past grazing pressures have exerted their influence on the vegetation and soils. Additional problems exist in an intensively mined area east of the Dolores River near Calamity Mesa. Throughout the Planning Area drainage courses are generally in a condition of active erosion, with little hope at present for a quick reversal of this condition. High intensity summer storms characteristically cause flooding, damaging road and irrigation systems.

Due to the unpredictability of these flooding events, little can be done to check the resulting sedimentation and stream bank erosion.

BLM resource specialists examined these eroding areas and recommended rehabilitiation and restriction of uses which cause unnecessary soil erosion, at least until the rehabilitation was established. The importance of some of these areas for continued mineral development and intensive livestock grazing has also been recognized.

## Off-Road Vehicles

Certain portions of the Planning Area are receiving increased travel off of existing roads. Although some of this use is attributed to livestock operations and mineral-related activity, the concern lies with indiscriminate travel for recreation purposes.

Many individuals recommended that various areas be closed to vehicle travel off of existing roads. Such closures would reduce soil erosion, stream sedimentation and wildlife harrassment and help to maintain the undeveloped character of the proposed wildland study areas.

## Public Access Near Palisade Watershed

The issue of legal public access to the several thousand acres of Public Lands located immediately north of the town of Palisade's watershed has been controversial since the early 1940's. The town of Palisade feels that public access over the pipeline roads leading to Cabin Reservoir would cause damage to portions of the town's watershed, water storage facilities and water transmission system, degrading the quality of the town's water supply.

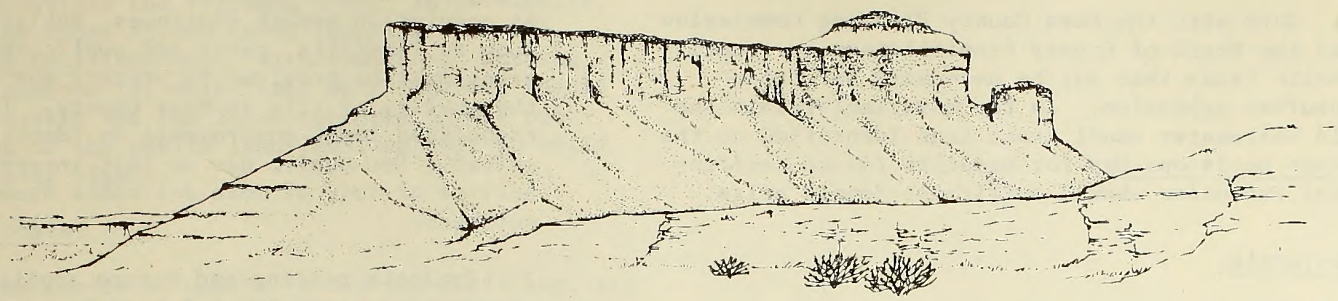
BLM resource specialists have identified a need for legal access for the purposes of recreation, developing and monitoring allotment management plans for livestock grazing and minerals development.

Nokomis Fritillary Butterfly

The Nokomis Fritillary butterfly (Speyeria nokomis nokomis Edwards) is a rare and beautiful North American butterfly, it has recently been nominated for study as an endangered species by authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The only known colony within the Planning Area occurs in Unaweep Canyon about ten miles northeast of Gateway. Roughly 75 percent of this colony's habitat is on Public Lands, the remaining 25 percent is in private ownership. About 20 percent of the habitat area on Public Lands is considered by entomologists and lepidopterists to be critical habitat.

At the present time, herbicide spraying and cattle grazing are two dominant disturbance factors associated with the site. BLM resource specialists have recommended that the federal portion of the butterfly habitat be fenced to exclude livestock and that the use of herbicides on the area be stopped. They recommended that studies be made of ecological interrelationships involving the butterfly and the habitat area. Withdrawal from mineral entry and exclusion of oil and gas leasing have also been recommended.

Basically these recommendations are all directed toward protecting the habitat area from any changes until the ecological studies have been completed. More specific management decisions could then be made.



## RESOURCES AND SIGNIFICANT MFP DECISIONS

### Lands

A. Resource Description

The Whitewater Planning Area contains approximately 616,000 acres in Mesa County and 16,000 acres in Montrose County. About 56 percent of the area is public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, 8 percent is federal land administered by other agencies and the remaining 36 percent is in private ownership. Much of the land along the major roads and drainages is in private ownership, creating many access and management problems. The greatest block of Public Lands is near Gateway and also south of Whitewater. The most scattered land pattern is in the Plateau Valley near Collbran. The majority of the Public Lands near Gateway are covered by unpatented uranium mining claims. The numbers of roads and structures connected with the mining activity make surface management of that area quite difficult.

Aside from mining, the major land use in the Whitewater Planning Area is livestock grazing. The Public Lands also provide important habitat for various big game species.

Collbran is the only incorporated town within the boundaries of the Planning Area, having a population of 225 according to the 1970 census. Three small unincorporated communities include Mesa, Whitewater and Gateway. None of these communities contain industrial areas. Agricultural lands are irrigated and are used primarily to grow forage crops such as alfalfa. These irrigated croplands are mainly located in the Plateau Valley and in the Kannah Creek vicinity.

Several areas have been identified as having potential for recreation and public purposes. There are 95 separate rights-of-way covering several hundred lineal miles. There are two major communication site locations. Approximately 54,000 acres have been withdrawn from BLM's administration.

B. Multiple Use Decisions

1. Work with the Mesa County Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners to identify Public Lands that may be necessary for urban-suburban expansion. In the meantime, retain the old Whitewater small tract area identified on the Lands Decisions Map for possible future residential expansion should sufficient demand arise.

Rationale:

Population projections for Grand Junction indicate an increase of at least 19,000 people during the next 15 year period. Although the majority of this expansion is not expected to be within the Planning Area, some development can be expected in this general vicinity. In particular, the Whitewater parcel has potential for development, as three residences were constructed on adjoining lots under the old Small Tract Act.

2. Approve or renew leases of those Public Lands identified on the Lands Decisions Map under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. Specifically, approve the City of Grand Junction application for expansion of their existing sanitary landfill on Orchard Mesa. Renew Mesa County's R&PP leases (C-0125485 & C-1161) for sanitary landfills on Orchard Mesa and near the community of Mesa. Approve Mesa County's application (C-16035) for a 40 acre tract along the Colorado River upon comletion of a satisfactory development plan. This land would be used for open space and public access to the river.

Rationale:

As population growth continues, public-use areas such as landfills, parks and public recreation areas must be provided to protect and enhance the quality of life in Mesa County. The BLM has encouraged local governments to identify areas suitable for public use so that interruption of service or loss of more desirable open-space does not occur.

3. Evaluate pending and future applications for rights-of-way and Special Land Use permits on a case-by-case basis and obtain relinquishments for unused or abandoned rights-of-way within the Planning Area. In particular, process the right-of-way authorizing construction of the remaining portions of Interstate Highway I-70 over the Public Lands in DeBeque Canyon as shown on the Lands Descisions Map. Steps should be taken to obtain relinquishment of old railroad rights-of-way (C-93788 and C-0122132) depicted on the Lands Decisions Map.

Rationale:

Many right-of-way and Special Land Use Permit applications are received annually. Most of these are related to energy development and should be given top priority. Applications should conform with county planning and zoning ordinances. The allowance of rights-of-way and Special Land Use Permits is consistent with BLM's multiple use objectives, providing they are used for their intended purpose. The unused railroad rights-of-way should be relinquished so that the Public Lands can be fully managed.

4. Review all existing withdrawals of Public Lands within the Planning Area. In particular, review those 45,000 acres identified on the Lands Decisions Map. Withdrawals not serving the purpose for which they were intended should be revoked and the lands restored to the operation of the public land laws, subject to valid existing rights.

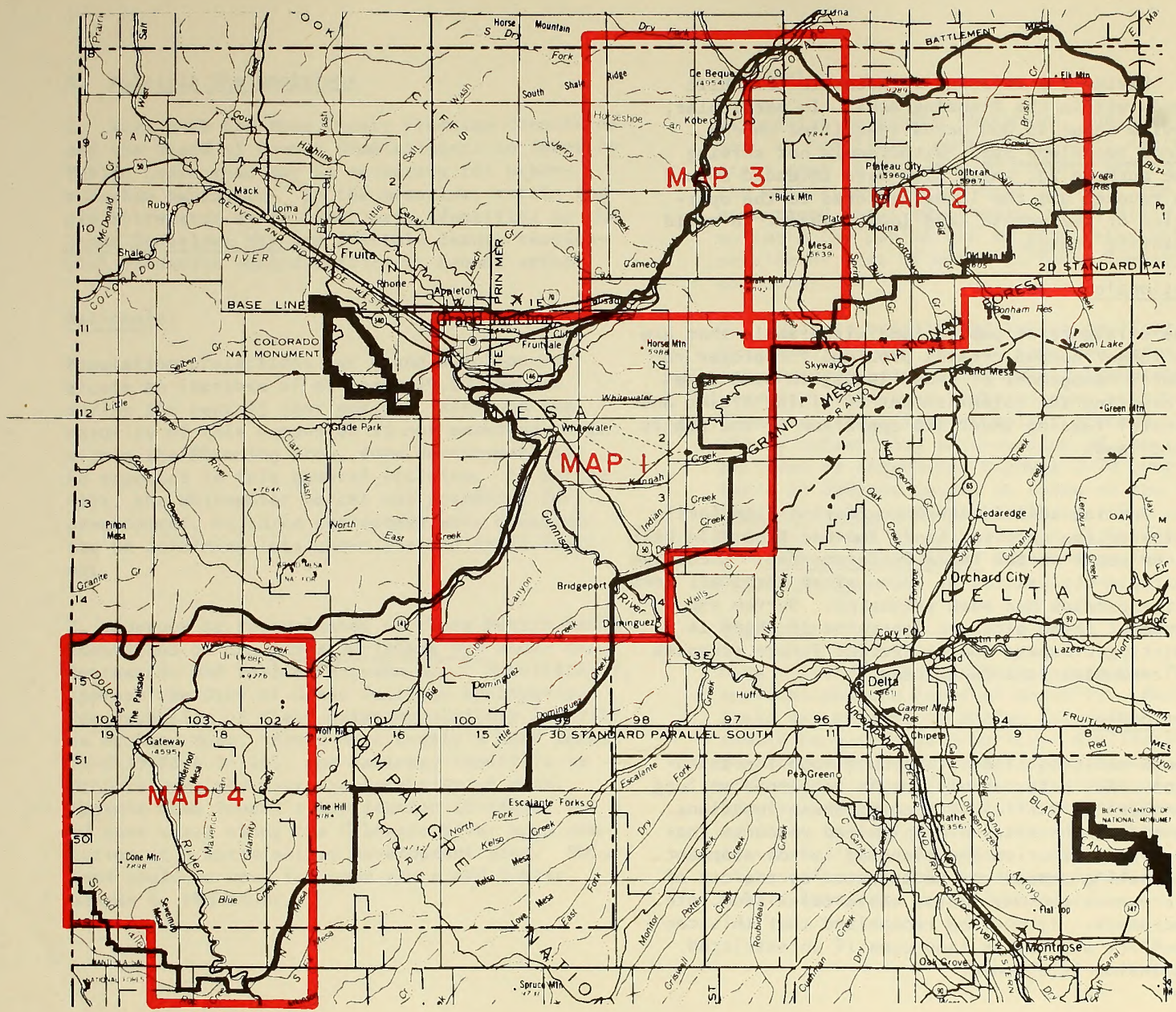
Rationale:

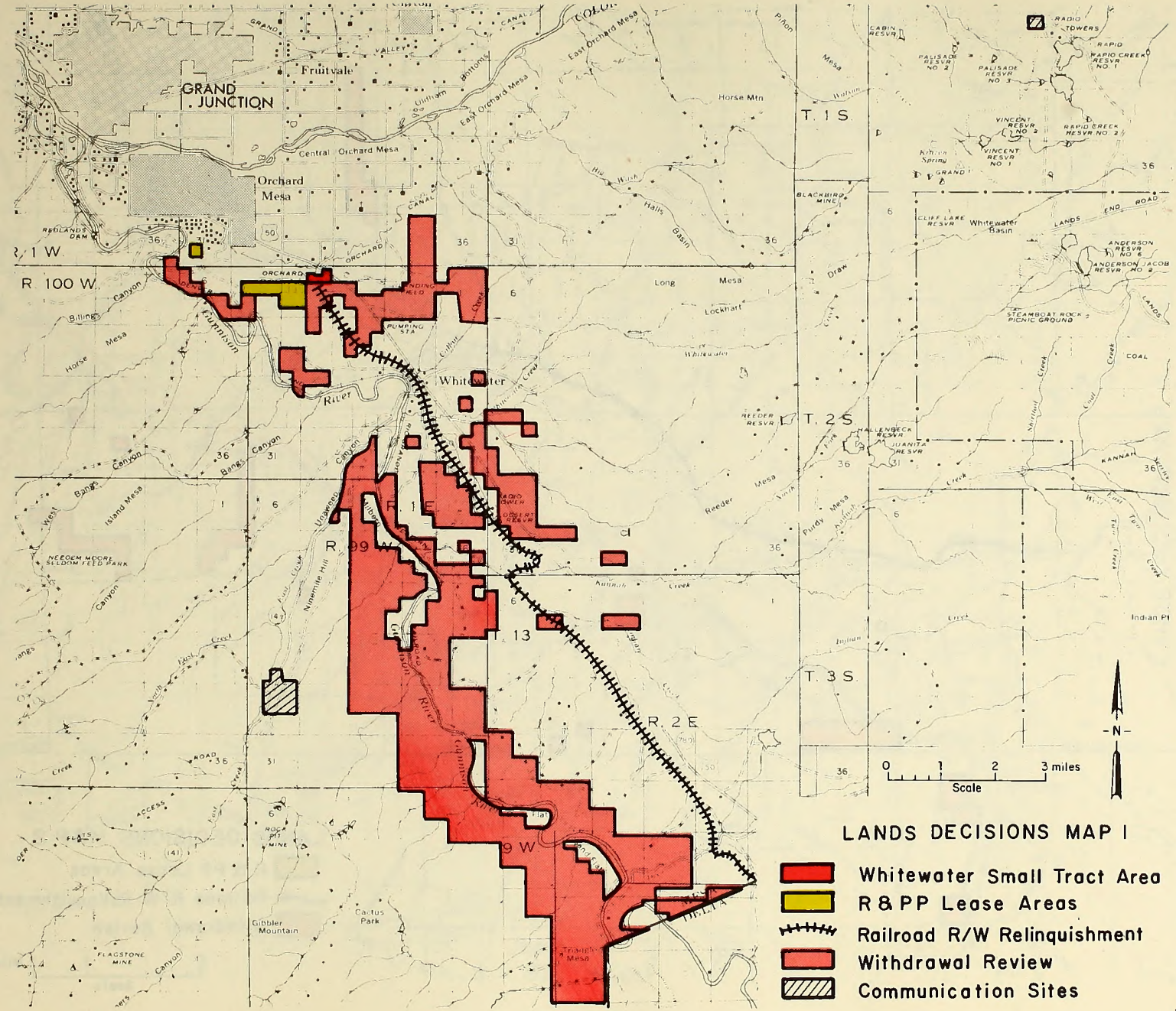
The existence of public land withdrawals that are no longer needed creates problems for proper resource management of those lands, in some cases preventing the establishment of mining claims and mineral leasing under the operation of the public land laws.

5. Confine additional communication site facilities to the existing Lands End and Nine Mile Hill sites shown on the Lands Decisions Map. Encourage multiple-utilization of these sites until all room for expansion has been exhausted. Survey and monument these sites to determine if there is existing trespass and to prevent future trespass of communications facilities.

Rationale:

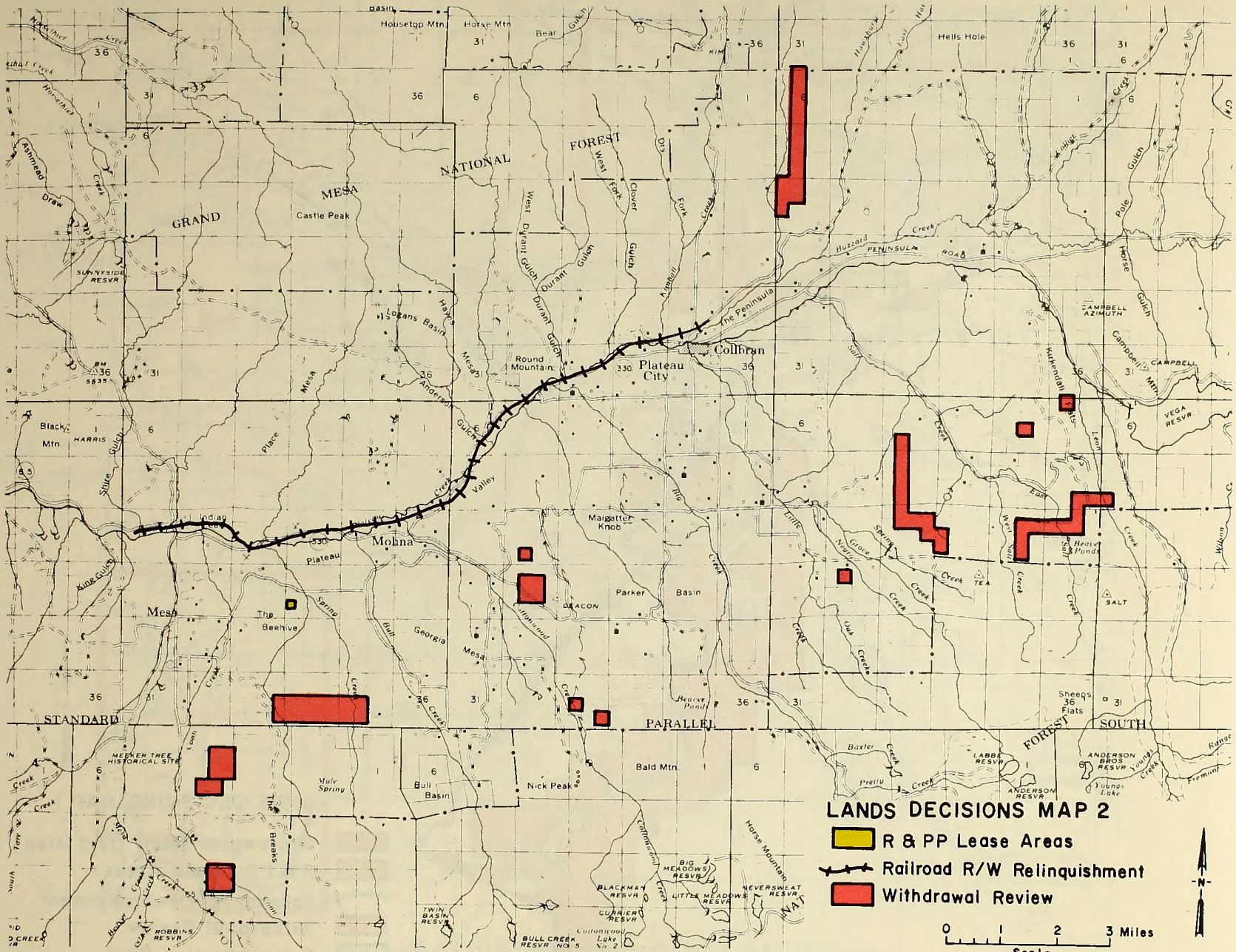
These existing sites still have room for expansion. New sites should not be developed so long as there is sufficient room at these locations. Communication sites are a limited resource that require protection and planning for development. Increasing demand can be expected as the use of microwave, two-way radio, cable television, etc. increases. It must be recognized that this can conflict with other land uses if unrestricted expansion is allowed.

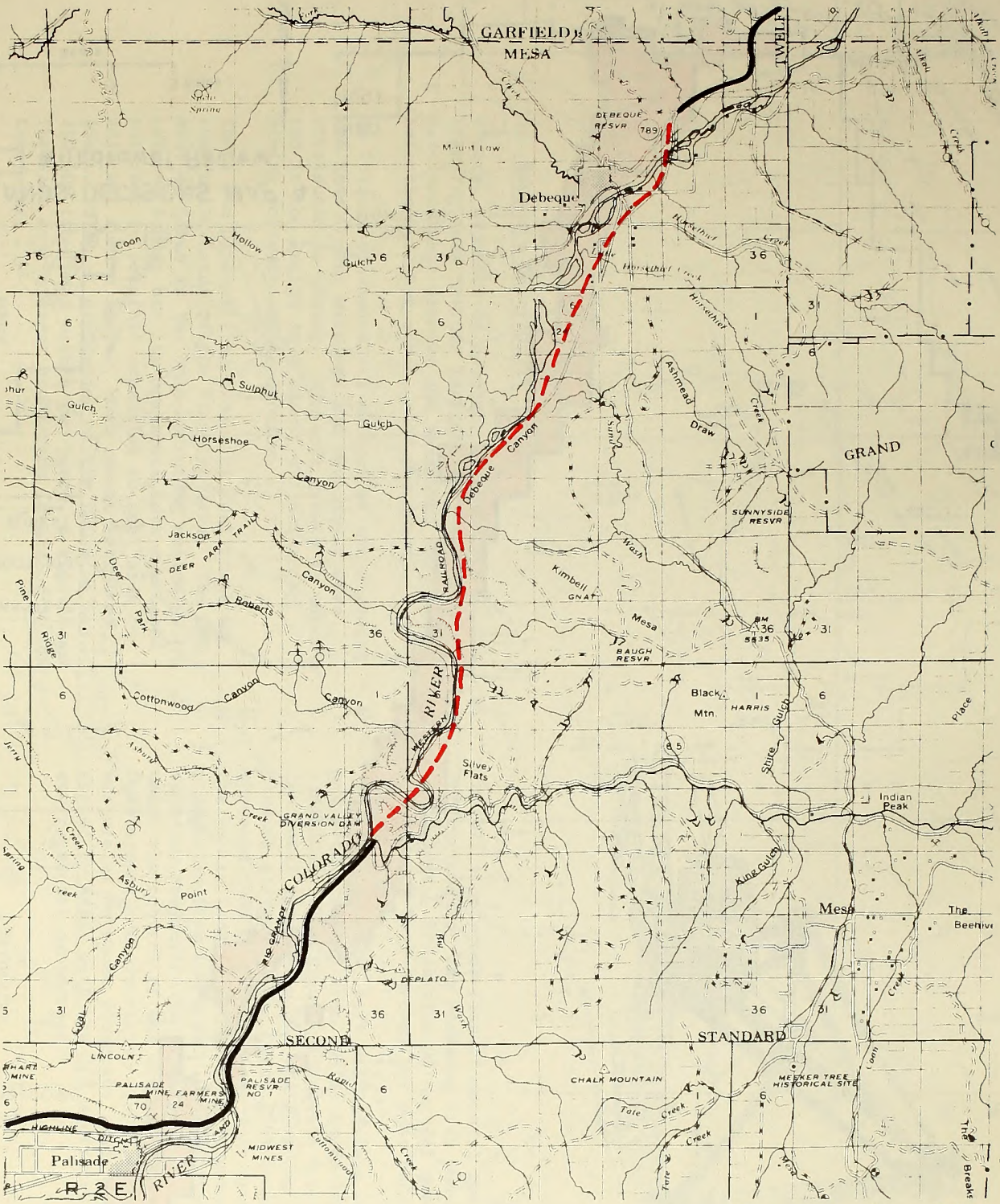

MAP 1
MAP 2
MAP 3
MAP 4
Grand Junction
Fruita
Mesa
Whitewater
Clifton
Orchard City
Delta
Montrose
Gateway
Bridgeport
Escalante Forks
Pea Green
Olathe
Cedaredge
Skyway
Glade Park
Pinon Mesa
Colorado Nat Monument
Black Canyon of the Gunnison Nat Monument
Uncompahgre Plateau
Uncompahgre Valley
Grand Mesa
Battlement Mesa
Plateau City
Collbran
De Beque
Palisade
Appleton
Loma
Mack
Ruby
Shale
Cameo
Kobey
Black Mtn
Horse Mtn
Green Mtn
Leon Lake
Bonham Res
Vega Res
Garnet Mesa Res
Cory Post Office
Austin Post Office
Chipeta
Cone Mtn
Pine Hill
Wolf Hill
Spruce Mtn
Flat Top
Oak Grove
Cedaredge
Orchard City
Delta
Montrose
Gateway
Bridgeport
Escalante Forks
Pea Green
Olathe
Skyway
Glade Park
Pinon Mesa
Colorado Nat Monument
Black Canyon of the Gunnison Nat Monument
Uncompahgre Plateau
Uncompahgre Valley
Grand Mesa
Battlement Mesa
Plateau City
Collbran
De Beque
Palisade
Appleton
Loma
Mack
Ruby
Shale
Cameo
Kobey
Black Mtn
Horse Mtn
Green Mtn
Leon Lake
Bonham Res
Vega Res
Garnet Mesa Res
Cory Post Office
Austin Post Office
Chipeta
Cone Mtn
Pine Hill
Wolf Hill
Spruce Mtn
Flat Top
Oak Grove
BASE LINE
3D STANDARD PARALLEL SOUTH
2D STANDARD PAR
COLORADO RIVER
GRAND RIVER
GUNNISON RIVER
DELTA
MESA
GRAND MESA
UNCOMPAHGRE PLATEAU
UNCOMPAHGRE VALLEY
BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL MONUMENT
COLORADO NAT MONUMENT
DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD
GRAND JUNCTION
FRUITLAND MESA
OAK MESA
BATTLEMENT MESA
PLATEAU
GRAND MESA
GRAND MESA
GRAND MESA




## LANDS DECISIONS MAP I

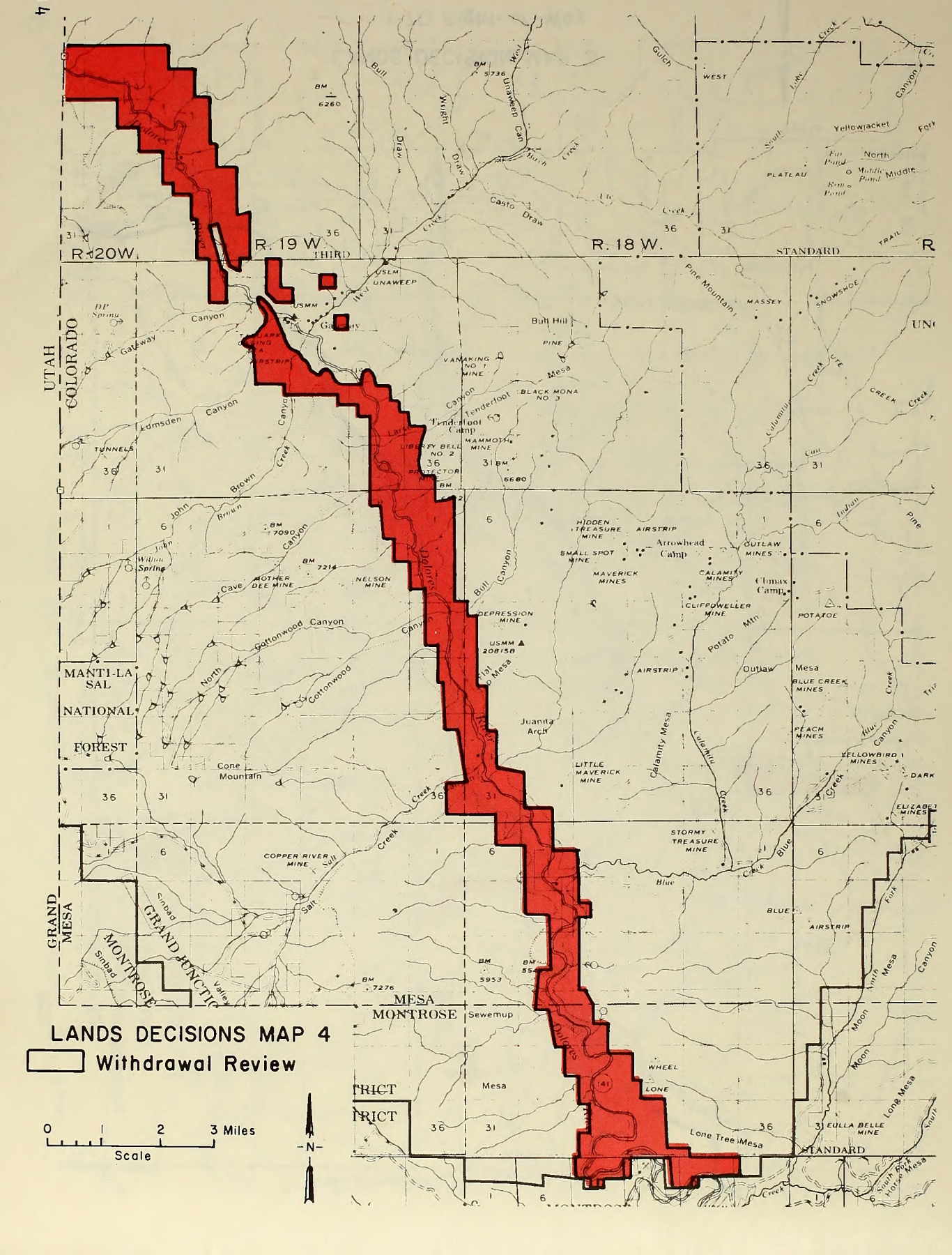
- Whitewater Small Tract Area
- R&PP Lease Areas
- Railroad R/W Relinquishment
- Withdrawal Review
- Communication Sites

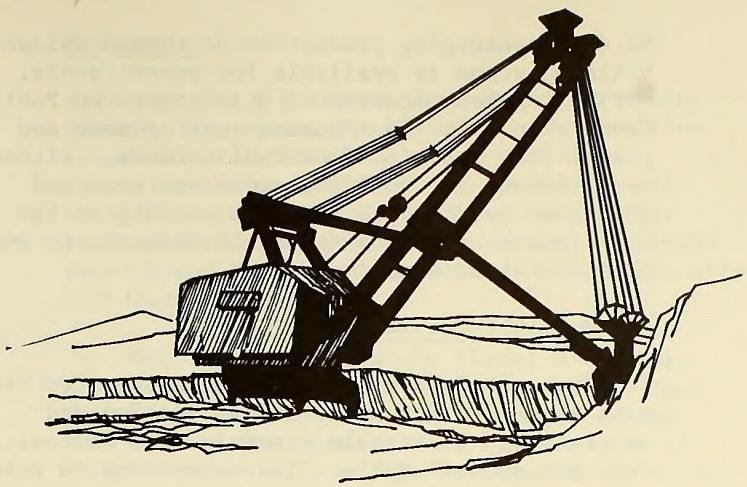

LANDS DECISIONS MAP 2
R & PP Lease Areas
Railroad R/W Relinquishment
Withdrawal Review
N
0 1 2 3 Miles
Scale
GRAND MESA NATIONAL FOREST
STANDARD PARALLEL
SOUTH FOREST
Plateau City
Collbran
Mesa
Mona
Castle Peak
Round Mountain
Parker Basin
Bald Mtn.
Nick Peak
Hells Hole
Peninsula Road
The Peninsula
Plateau Valley
Sunnyside Resvr
Vega Resvr
Anderson Resvr
Big Meadows Resvr
Blackman Resvr
Currier Resvr
Twin Basin Resvr
Bull Creek Resvr No 5
Robbins Resvr
Labbe Resvr
Meeker Tree Historical Site




LANDS DECISION MAP 3

I-70 Right-of-Way


LANDS DECISIONS MAP 4
Withdrawal Review
0 1 2 3 Miles
Scale
N
R. 20 W.
R. 19 W.
R. 18 W.
THIRD
STANDARD
UTAH
COLORADO
MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST
GRAND MESA
MONTROSE
GRAND JUNCTION
MESA
Bull Draw
Wright Draw
Unaweep Canyon
Gateway
Dolores
Tenderfoot Mesa
Bull Canyon
Cottonwood Canyon
Cone Mountain
Juanita Arch
Calamity Mesa
Lone Tree Mesa
Sewemup
Sinbad Valley
Copper River Mine
Stormy Treasure Mine
Little Maverick Mine
Depression Mine
Maverick Mines
Hidden Treasure Mine
Small Spot Mine
Arrowhead Camp
Climax Camp
Outlaw Mesa
Blue Creek Mines
Peach Mines
Yellowbird Mines
Eulla Belle Mine
Cliffdweller Mine
Calamity Mines
Outlaw Mines
Potato Mtn
Pine Mountain
Massey
Snowshoe
Yellowjacket
Plateau
Tunnels
Nelson Mine
Mother Dee Mine
Liberty Bell No 2
Protector
Mammoth Mine
Tenderfoot Camp
Black Mona No 3
Vamaking No 1 Mine
Bull Hill
Pine
Airstrip
USMM 208158
BM 6260
BM 5736
BM 7090
BM 7214
BM 6680
BM 7276
BM 5953



## MINERALS

### A. Resource Description

Mineral deposits of economic significance in the Planning Area include leasable coal and natural gas; locatable uranium and vanadium; and, common saleable building stone, sand and gravel.

In 1973, approximately 3 percent of the Regional and Mesa County earnings and employment were attributed to mining. Economic growth is expected in the Region as a result of increasing mining activity and production.

There are presently no producing coal mines on the Public Lands of the Planning Area. The CMC mine at Cameo is the only operating coal mine on private lands, but its operators have expressed interest in possible expansion to coal beds on adjacent Public Lands. Most recent estimates (Sept. 1976) of production at the CMC mine are 250,000 tons/year within two years, a significant increase over present production levels of 50,000 tons/year.

In 1975, the production of natural gas from the Public Lands of the Planning Area was 91.7 million cubic feet. Production of natural gas is expected to increase by 2 percent per year through 1980.

From 1950 to 1974, 1.76 million tons of uranium ore were produced from Public Lands in the Gateway vicinity. This figure represents 8 percent of the total production for the Planning Area, including private lands. From 1964 to 1974, 109 thousand tons of vanadium ore were produced from the Public Lands, representing 20 percent of total production from the area. Some of the uranium and vanadium production is on withdrawn Public Lands under the control of the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA). Leasing activities on those withdrawn lands are administered by ERDA, with the BLM monitoring environmental protection.

No data concerning production of common saleable building stone is available for recent years. In 1975, 30 sales occurred in 3 locations on Public Lands. In 1971, 55 thousand tons of sand and gravel were produced from Public Lands. Although local demand for building stone and sand and gravel is expected to increase locally in the near future, supplies should be adequate to meet this increased demand.

B. Multiple Use Decisions

1. Keep the Public Lands of the Whitewater Planning Area open for exploration, leasing and development of leasable minerals such as coal, oil, gas and oil shale. The exceptions to this policy, identified on the Minerals Decisions Map, include:

a. No additional mineral leasing will be allowed on the proposed Wildland Areas (i.e., Sewemup Mesa, Dominguez and Gateway-Palisade) until a decision is reached on whether or not to designate these areas as "Wilderness Areas" except, mineral leasing with no surface occupancy will be allowed within one-half mile inside the boundaries of the Sewemup Mesa Wildland Area.

b. Mineral leasing will be allowed but no occupancy will be permitted on cultural resource sites, R&PP leases, retained small tract areas, communications sites, critical watershed areas and the Nokomis butterfly area.

Rationale:

The potential for continued development and additional discoveries of coal, natural gas and oil shale within the Planning Area is excellent. Furthermore, the potential for oil and potash development exists. A substantial amount of coal and natural gas has been produced to date and considerable production is projected. In 1970 alone, regional earnings from fossil fuel mining amounted to $1,123,000.

In view of increasing energy needs and a national goal to attain energy self-sufficiency, BLM should make every effort to encourage mineral development. But this development must not occur at the expense of other irreplaceable resource values. For this reason, the decisions on no leasing in the Wildland Areas and no occupancy on the identified types of areas are essential for environmental protection.

2. Keep all areas within the Whitewater Planning Area open to mining claim location, exploration and development for locatable minerals such as uranium, vanadium and others. The only exceptions to this policy are proposed withdrawals from mineral entry under the General Mining Laws for the Cactus Park Paleontological Quarry and the Nokomis butterfly area.

Rationale:

Uranium and vanadium are the two most valuable locatable minerals found in the Planning Area. Exploration is essential if additional mineral deposits are to be found. Any other withdrawals from mineral entry, though not preventing exploration, would discourage prospectors from spending time and money searching for minerals for which legal rights could not be established. It is evident that demand for and value of uranium is expected to increase significantly by 1980. These increases are of national concern since they can be attributed to nationwide construction of nuclear power plants.

Because of increasing national energy needs and the goal of attaining energy self-sufficiency, BLM must be careful not to discourage free-enterprise mineral exploration for needed locatable mineral resources. As with leasable minerals, this development should not unnecessarily damage other fragile resources. For this reason, the decision was made to withdraw the Cactus Park Paleontological site and the Nokomis butterfly area.

3. Work with mining companies, contractors, etc., to establish sound protection practices in connection with locatable mineral activities (e.g., access and haul roads, exploration pits, drill holes, mill sites, etc.) On-the-ground and office contact and dissemination of information through the news media will help achieve this.

Rationale:

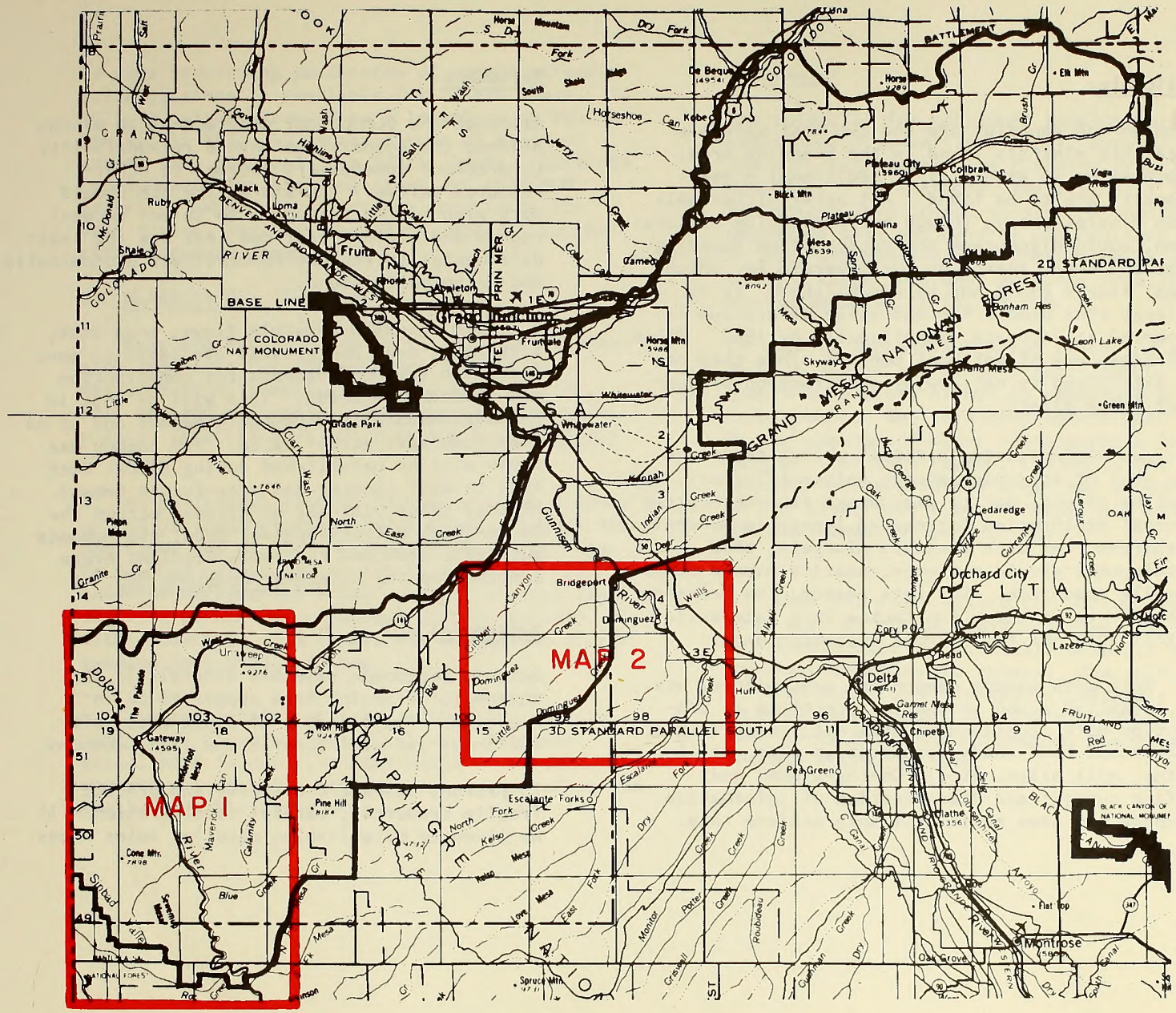
Although the BLM cannot deny access to mining claims, the agency does have a responsibility to preclude unnecessary damages to other resource values. Therefore, the BLM should work with mining personnel to select access routes and mining practices that are the least detrimental to the environment, yet economically and technically sound.

4. Make saleable minerals (lava, moss rock, flagstone, sand and gravel) available to meet local and regional demands for construction and maintenance needs. This will be done in an environmentally acceptable manner and at no less than fair market value. Two common use areas will be established during Fiscal Year 1978 to meet present and near-future demand. Mineral sales will not be allowed within the Cactus Park Paleontological Site, the Nokomis butterfly area and the three Wildland Areas depicted on the Minerals Decisions Map.

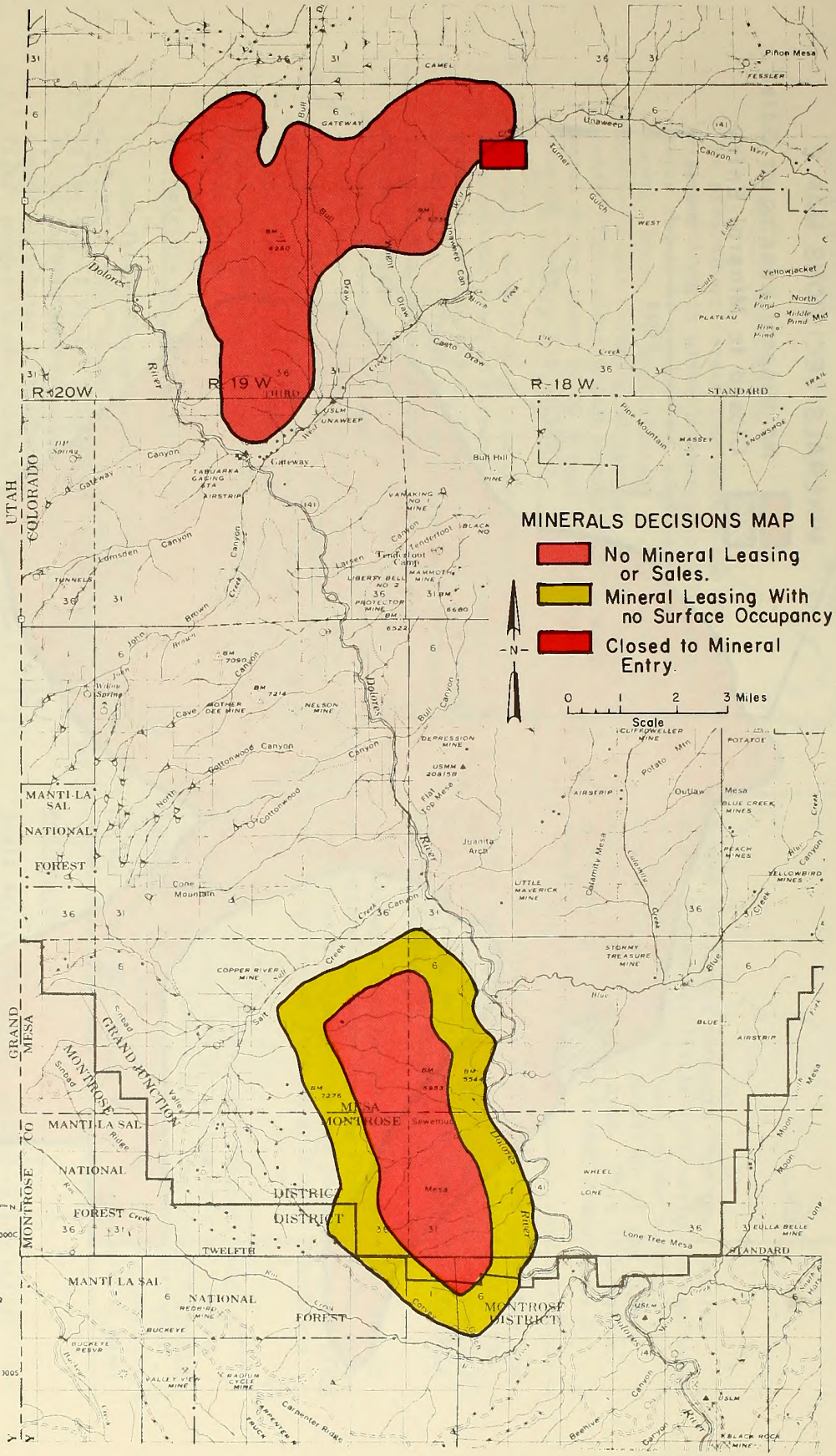
Rationale;

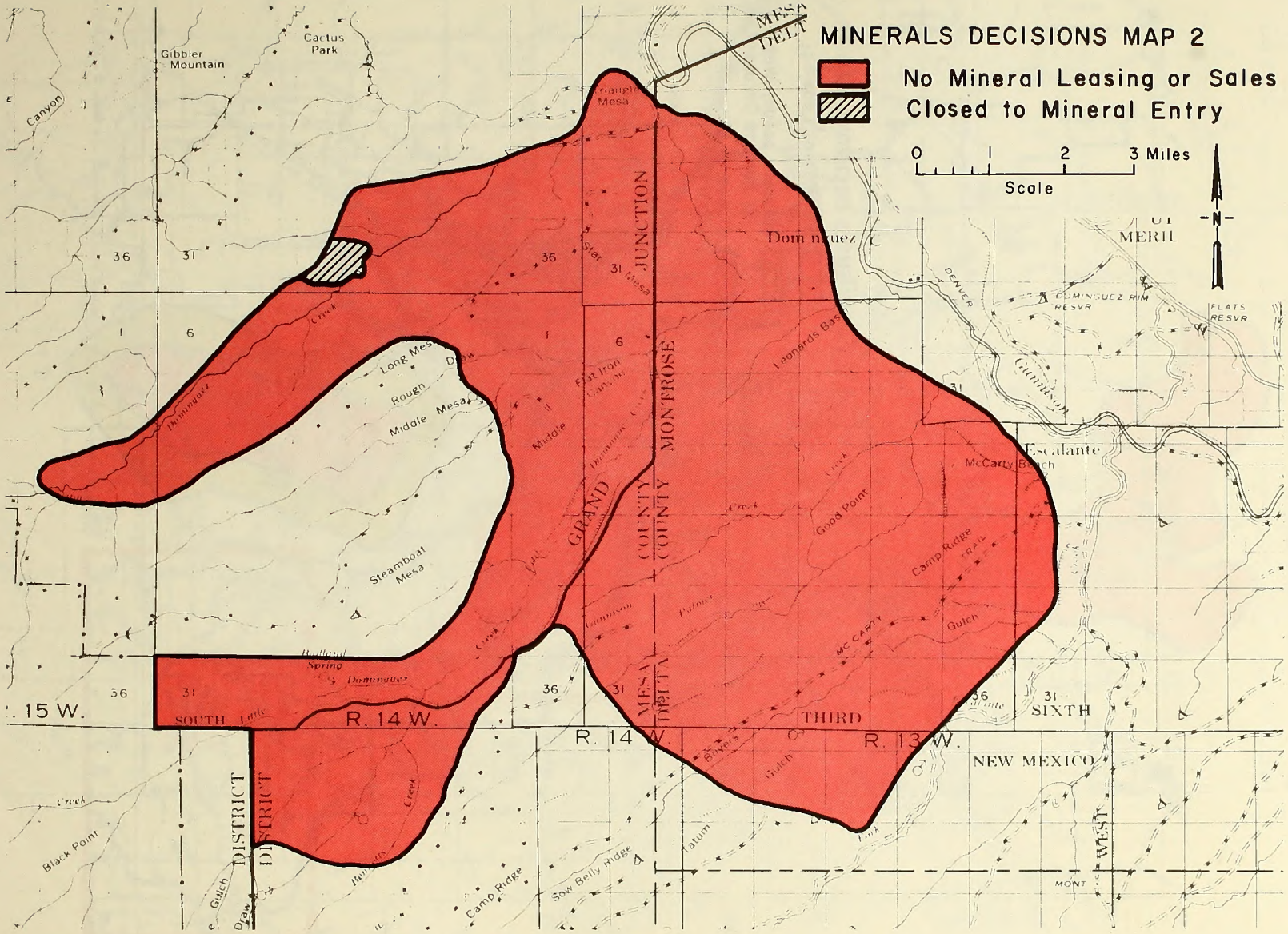
Demands forcommon saleable minerals in the Whitewater Planning Area appear to be increasing. The disposal of these materials for local use will benefit the local economy.

To prevent haphazard disposal and protect fragile resources, careful consideration will be given to establishing material sales areas.




LOCATION MAP FOR MINERALS DECISIONS


MINERALS DECISIONS MAP I
No Mineral Leasing or Sales.
Mineral Leasing With no Surface Occupancy
Closed to Mineral Entry.
-N-
0 1 2 3 Miles
Scale
UTAH
COLORADO
R.20W.
R. 19 W.
R.18 W.
THIRD
STANDARD
MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST
GRAND MESA
MONTROSE CO
MESA MONTROSE
MONTROSE DISTRICT
GRAND JUNCTION DISTRICT
TWELFTH
Dolores River
Gateway
Unaweep
Bull Hill
Pinon Mesa
Yellowjacket
Pine Mountain
Cottonwood Canyon
Cone Mountain
Juanita Arch
Lone Tree Mesa
Carpenter Ridge
Buckeye Reservoir


MINERALS DECISIONS MAP 2
No Mineral Leasing or Sales
Closed to Mineral Entry
0 1 2 3 Miles
Scale
N
Gibbler Mountain
Cactus Park
Canyon
Triangle Mesa
Long Mesa
Rough
Middle Mesa
Steamboat Mesa
Leonards Basin
Escalante
McCarty Bench
Good Point
Camp Ridge
Gulch
Black Point
Sow Belly Ridge
Camp Ridge
GRAND JUNCTION
COUNTY
MONTROSE
COUNTY
MESA
DELTA
COUNTIES
DISTRICT
DISTRICT
R. 15 W.
R. 14 W.
R. 14 W.
R. 13 W.
SOUTH
THIRD
SIXTH
NEW MEXICO
WEST
DENVER
DOMINGUEZ RIM RESVR
FLATS RESVR

## FOREST PRODUCTS

### A. Resource Description

The predominant forest type within the Whitewater Planning Area is pinon-juniper with a few scattered stands of spruce-fir, ponderosa pine and aspen. There are approximately 51,000 acres of pinon-juniper covering 68 percent of the Public Lands. Spruce-fir stands occupy 14,00 acres; aspen covers about 12,00 acres; and ponderosa pine is found on 630 acres.

The major wood product from these forest lands is pinon and juniper firewood. Other important products include posts, Christmas trees and sales of wildlings. There has been some recent demand for timber from the ponderosa pine stands, but response to this demand can only be somewhat limited because of the small acreage involved. In 1975 over one million board feet of firewood and fence posts, 2,000 Christmas trees, and 200 wildings were sold from the pinon-juniper stands of the Planning Area. This represents a significant increase in sales of forest products from Public Lands.

### B. Multiple Use Decisions

1. Complete a forest inventory and stand survey of forest lands in the Whitewater Planning Area by the end of Fiscal Year 1979. This inventory should include pinon-juniper stands, as well as stands of species traditionally called commercial (i.e., ponderosa pine, spruce-fir and aspen).

Rationale:

The expanding population in Grand Junction and increasing costs of energy will increase the demand for forest products from the Planning Area. Presently, little information is available concerning the species and volume density, productive capacity, and condition of the forest stands in the Planning area. This information is needed to manage the forest resource on a sustained yield basis.

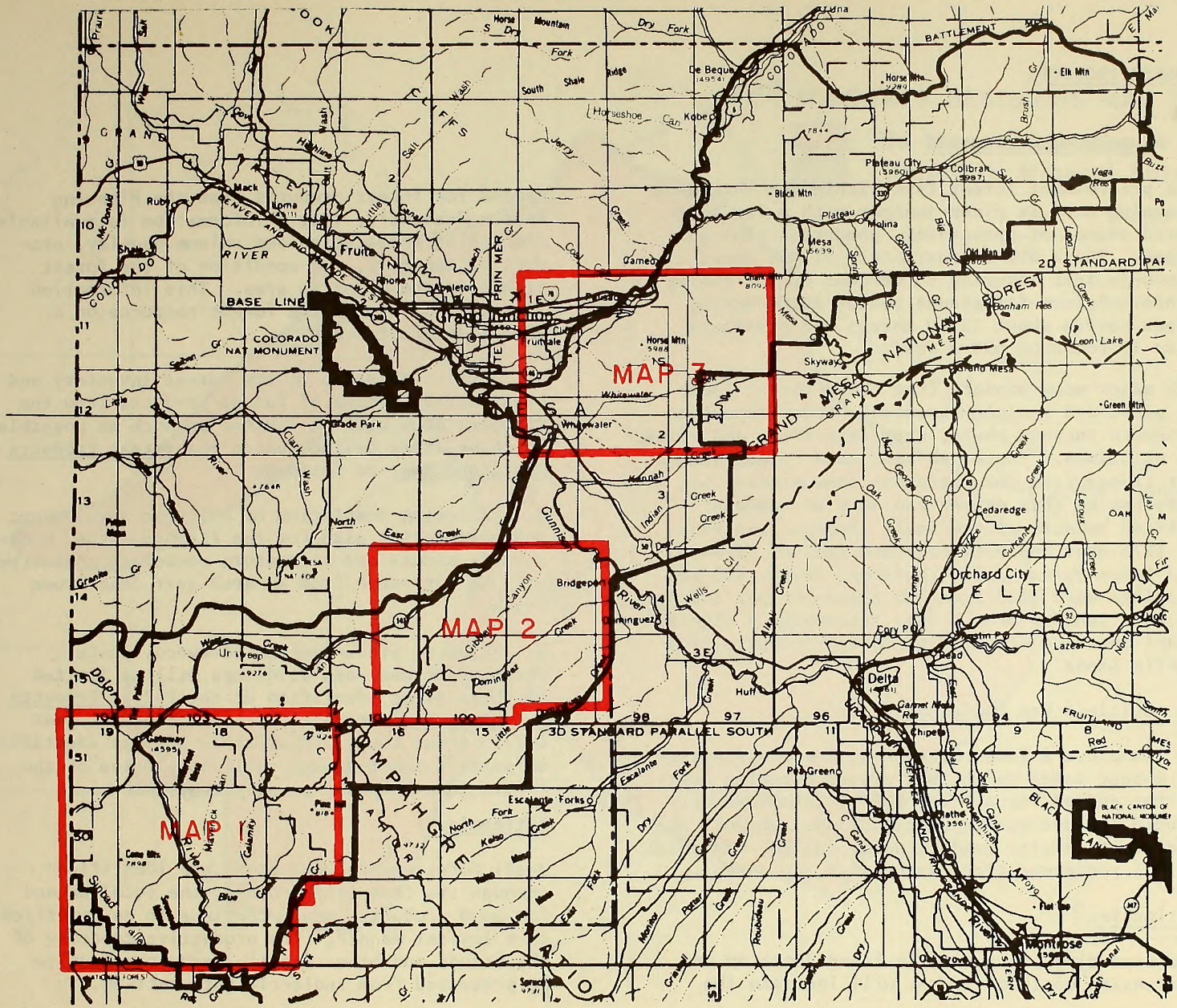
2. Until completion of the forest inventory and stand survey, sales of forest products from the Planning Area will be limited as much as possible to those areas delineated on the Forest Products Decisions Map, as follows:

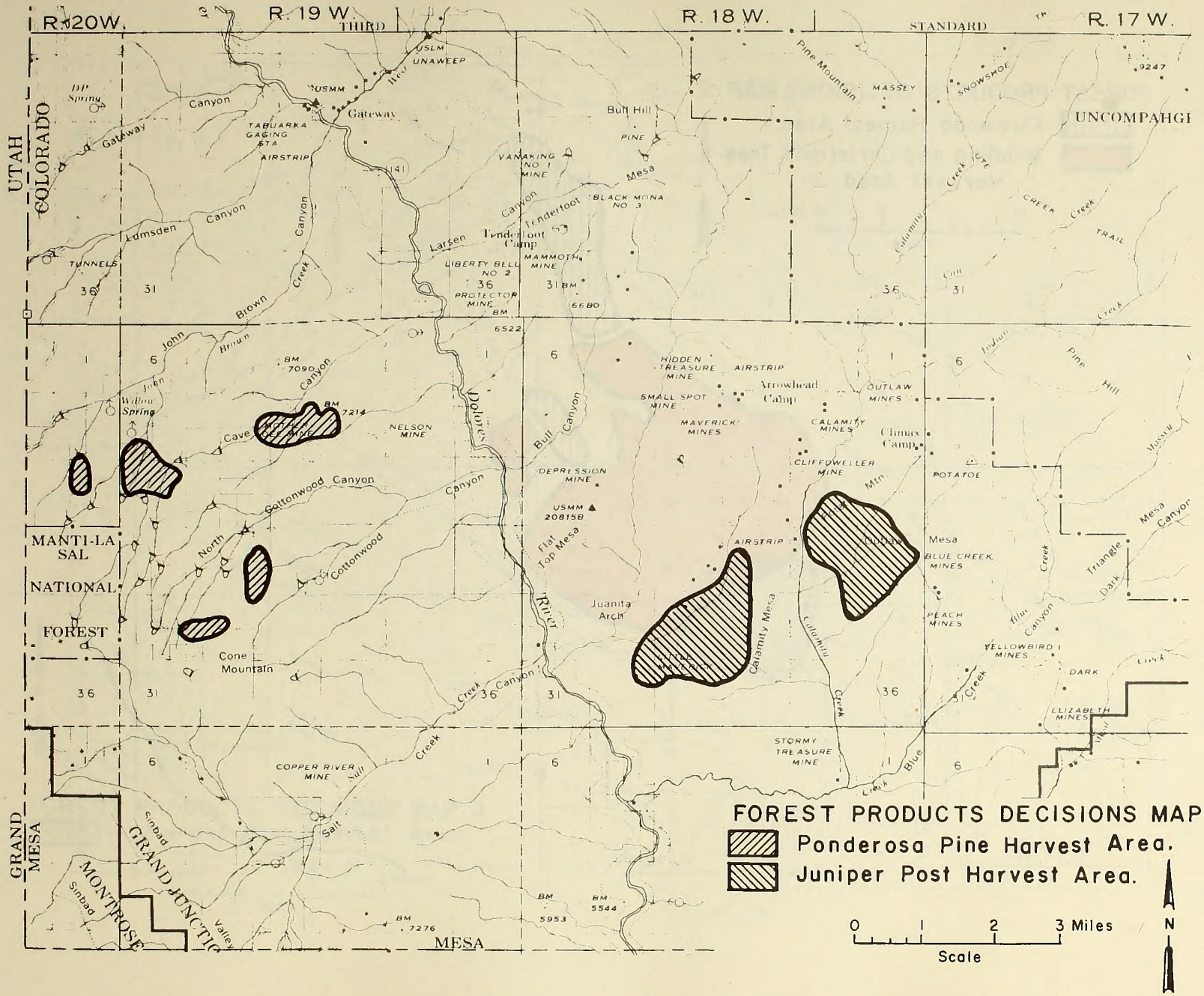
a. Following completion of a forest development and engineering plan for the Planning Area, undesirable mature and overmature ponderosa pine trees will be harvested from an area near John Brown Creek.

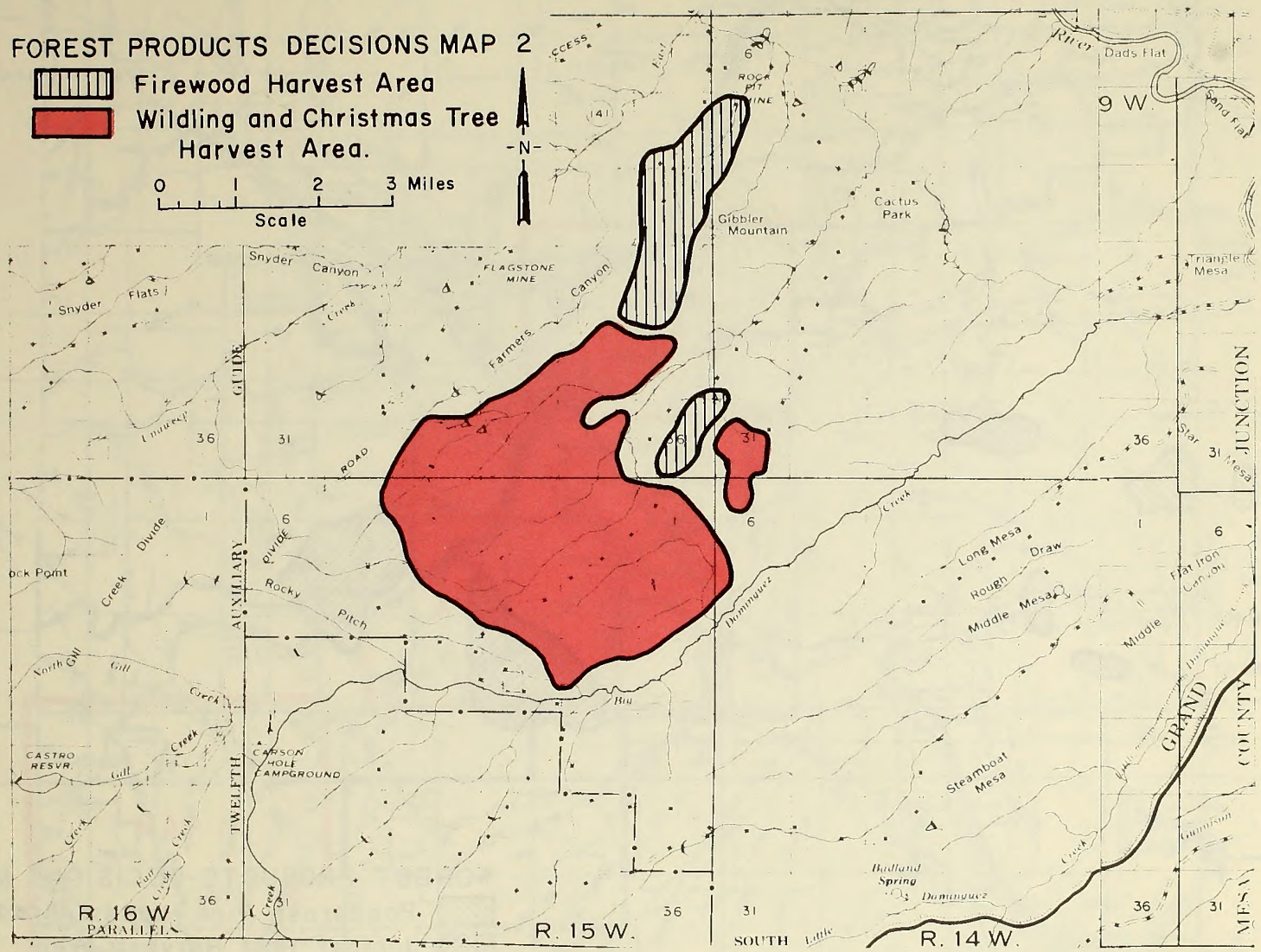
b. Sales of pinon-juniper firewood, posts, Christmas trees, and wildlings will be limited to those areas identified on the Forest Products Decisions Map through the end of calendar year 1977. After that, other areas will be identified to satisfy local demand until completion of the forest inventory and stand survey.

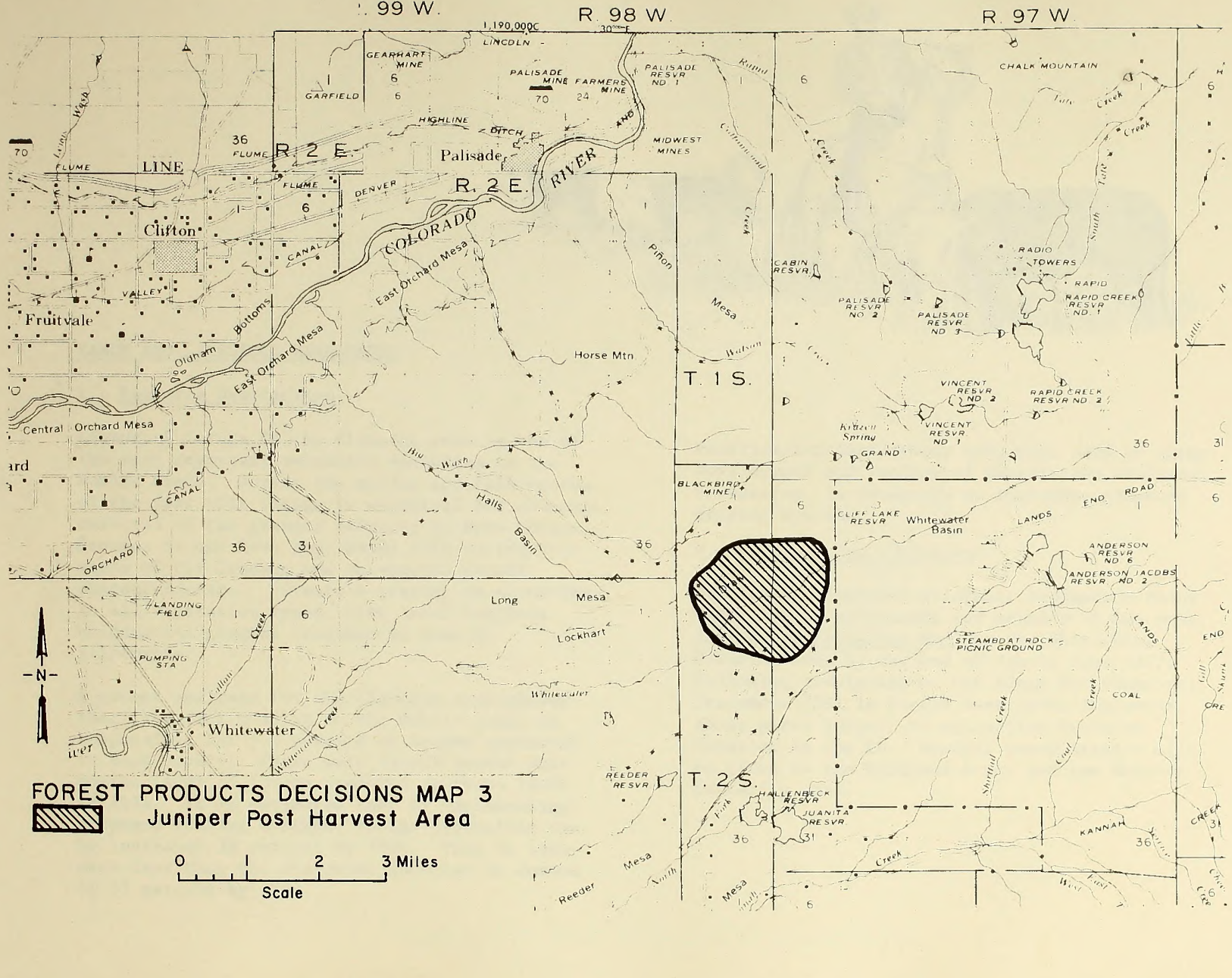
Rationale:

Until forest management areas are identified through the inventory process, the local demand for wood products should continue to be satisfied in a logical manner. The productive capacity of the stands and other fragile resources need to be protected from indiscriminate cutting.


MAP 1
MAP 2
MAP 3
BASE LINE
3D STANDARD PARALLEL SOUTH
2D STANDARD PAR
GRAND MESA NATIONAL FOREST
UNCOMPAHGRE PLATEAU
COLORADO NAT MONUMENT
BLACK CANYON OF NATIONAL MONUMENT
Grand Junction
Fruita
Palisade
Clifton
Orchard City
DELTA
Delta
Montrose
Escalante Forks
Bridgeport
Cedaredge
Colbran
Plateau City
Mesa
Skyway
Whitewater
Kannah Creek
Indian Creek
Leon Lake
Bonham Res
Crawford Res
Paonia Res
Carmel Mesa Res
Peach Valley
Pea Green
Olathe
Chipeta
Gateway
Uravan
Dominguez
Gunnison River
Colorado River
Dolores River
Escalante Creek
Kelso Creek
Dry Fork
Horse Mountain
Horsethief Canyon
Kobe
De Beque
Elk Mtn
Green Mtn
Oak Mesa
Black Mtn
Horse Mtn
Old Man Mtn
Chalk Mtn
Cactus Park
Molina
Loma
Mack
Rubey
Whitewater
Clark Wash
Salt Wash
Hawkins Wash
Little Gypsum Creek
Big Gypsum Creek
Leroux Creek
Surface Creek
Cottonwood Creek
Spring Creek
Big Creek
Leroux Creek
Wells Creek
Alkali Creek
Tongue Creek
Curtis Creek
Lazear
Austin
Cory
Huff
Peach Valley
Cactus Park
Montrose
Olathe
Chipeta
Pea Green
Escalante Forks
Gateway
Uravan
Dominguez
Bridgeport
Whitewater
Palisade
Fruita
Clifton
Loma
Mack
Rubey
Colbran
Plateau City
Mesa
Skyway
Cedaredge
Orchard City
Delta

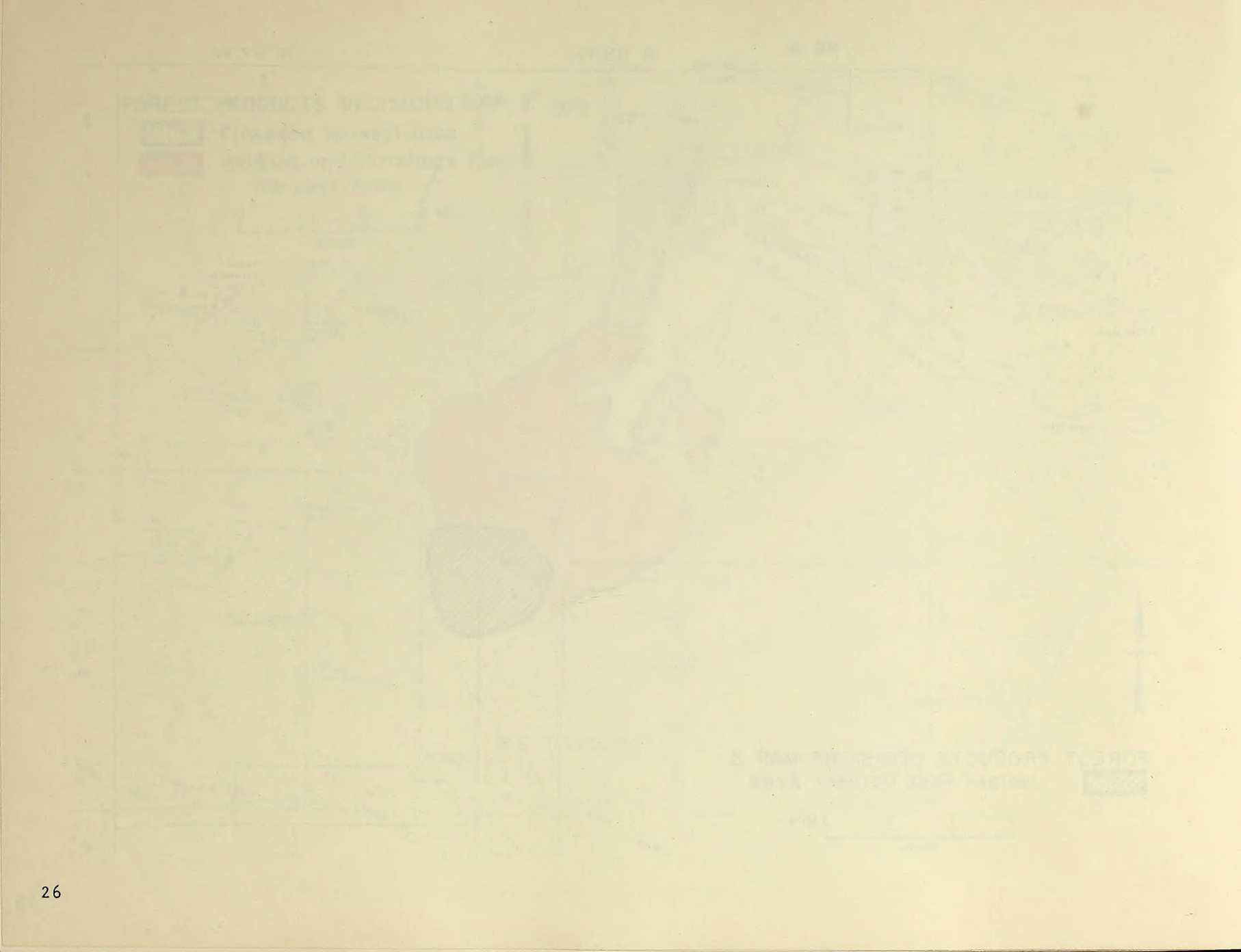

R.20W.
R. 19 W.
R. 18 W.
R. 17 W.
THIRD
STANDARD
UTAH
COLORADO
MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST
GRAND MESA
MESA
UNCOMPAHGI
Gateway
Canyon
Tabuarka Gaging Sta
Airstrip
Tunnels
Brown Creek
Tenderfoot Camp
Liberty Bell No 2
Protector Mine
Mammoth Mine
Vanaking No 1 Mine
Black Mona No 3
Bull Hill
Pine Mountain
Massey
Snowshoe
Ute Creek
Trail
Hidden Treasure Mine
Arrowhead Camp
Outlaw Mines
Small Spot Mine
Maverick Mines
Calamity Mines
Climax Camp
Cliffdweller Mine
Potatoe
Depression Mine
Nelson Mine
Willow Spring
Cave
Cottonwood Canyon
North Cottonwood
Cone Mountain
Dolores River
Bull Canyon
Flat Top Mesa
Juanita Arch
Calamity Mesa
Blue Creek Mines
Peach Mines
Yellowbird I Mines
Dark Canyon
Elizabeth Mines
Stormy Treasure Mine
Copper River Mine
Salt Creek
Sinbad Valley
Grand Junction
Montrose
USLM Unaweep
USMM
USMM 20815B
BM 7090
BM 7214
BM 6522
BM 6680
BM 7276
BM 5953
BM 5544
Mesa Canyon
Triangle Mesa
Dark Canyon
Indian Creek
Pine Hill
Mussau Mtn
Potatoe Mtn
Blue Creek
Columbine Creek
Cow Creek
Creek
Canyon
Mesa
Mtn
Hill
Trail
Valley
Sinbad
Salt
Blue
Dark
Indian
Pine
Mussau
Potatoe
Triangle
Columbine
Cow

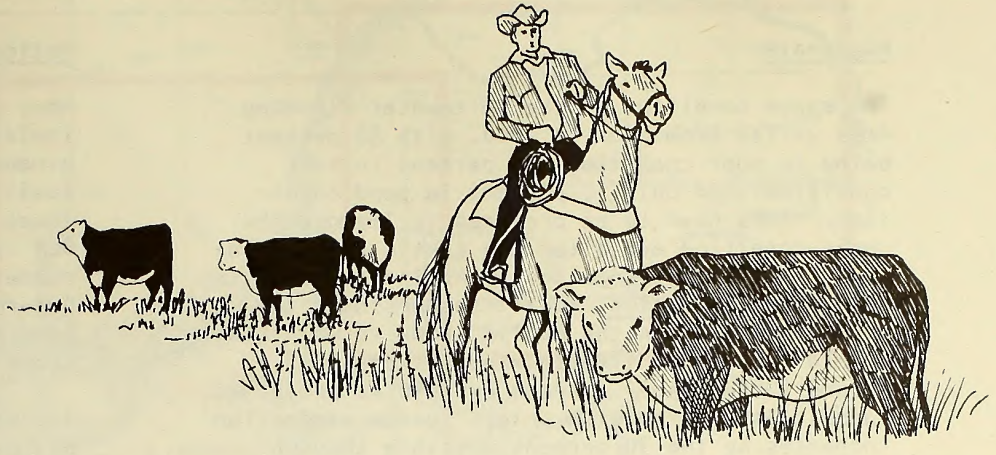

FOREST PRODUCTS DECISIONS MAP 2
Firewood Harvest Area
Wildling and Christmas Tree Harvest Area.
0 1 2 3 Miles
Scale
-N-
Gibbler Mountain
Cactus Park
Dads Flat
Triangle Mesa
Snyder Flats
Snyder Canyon
FLAGSTONE MINE
Farmers Canyon
GUIDE ROAD
Long Mesa
Draw
Rough
Middle Mesa
Flat Iron Canyon
Steamboat Mesa
Badland Spring
CARSON HOLE CAMPGROUND
CASTRO RESVR.
TWELFTH AUXILIARY
GRAND COUNTY
MESA
JUNCTION
R. 16 W.
PARALLEL
R. 15 W.
R. 14 W.
9 W.




FOREST PRODUCTS DECISIONS MAP 3

Juniper Post Harvest Area





## RANGE AND LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

### A. Resource Description

Livestock forage in the Planning area is one of the most important renewable resources on the Public Lands. During the spring and fall months of the year this forage is essential for economic survival of the grazing industry in Mesa County. Seasons of use have been based both on requirements of the lessees and on vegetal growth characteristics. Livestock grazing is occurring in all vegetation types, with local ranchers holding 141 grazing licenses in some 98 allotments.

A recent analysis for the Planning Area showed that livestock grazing on the Public Lands is responsible for 3.2 percent of income generated in Mesa County. There were 25,633 animal unit months (AUM) of forage produced on these lands in 1976. It is estimated that by implementing proposed grazing systems, forage production can be increased 30 percent by 1990. This is somewhat less than the projected increase in demand of 37 percent by 1990.

Facilitating improvement projects, such as water development and fencing of pasture and allotment boundaries, is necessary to implement proposed grazing systems.

### B. Multiple Use Decisions

1. Revise Intensive Allotment Management Plans (AMP) for 54 allotments and prepare 21 new ones (see Range Decisions Map) in the Whitewater Planning Area by the end of Fiscal Year 1977. Following completion of the Range Environmental Statement (ES) in Fiscal Year 1979, implement those plans subject to mitigation measures detailed in the ES. Special consideration will be given to the Wildland Areas and the Nokomis butterfly area.

Rationale:

The range condition of the Whitewater Planning Area varies from poor to good, with 52 percent being in poor condition, 38 percent in fair condition, and only 10 percent in good condition. AMPs need to be prepared to improve the range condition and alter the static and declining trend of the rangelands. As indicated in the Resource Description, local ranchers need the forage produced on the Public Lands to maintain viable year-round livestock operations. If demand increases 37 percent by 1990 as projected, inequities will develop unless forage production increases by the 30 percent possible through implementation of Intensive AMPs. Implementation of these plans must not be at the expense of other fragile resources. Measures needed to mitigate the environmental impacts of livestock grazing will be adhered to. These plans will benefit range, watershed and wildlife resources.

2. Prepare Custodial Allotment Management Plans for 44 allotments, covering 27,652 acres of Public Lands (see Range Decisions Map). These plans will determine and set proper seasons of use and allowable AUMs for these allotments. Some of these custodial management areas may require Intensive AMPs at a later date. This will be determined during the preparation of the Range ES for the Grand Junction Resource Area.

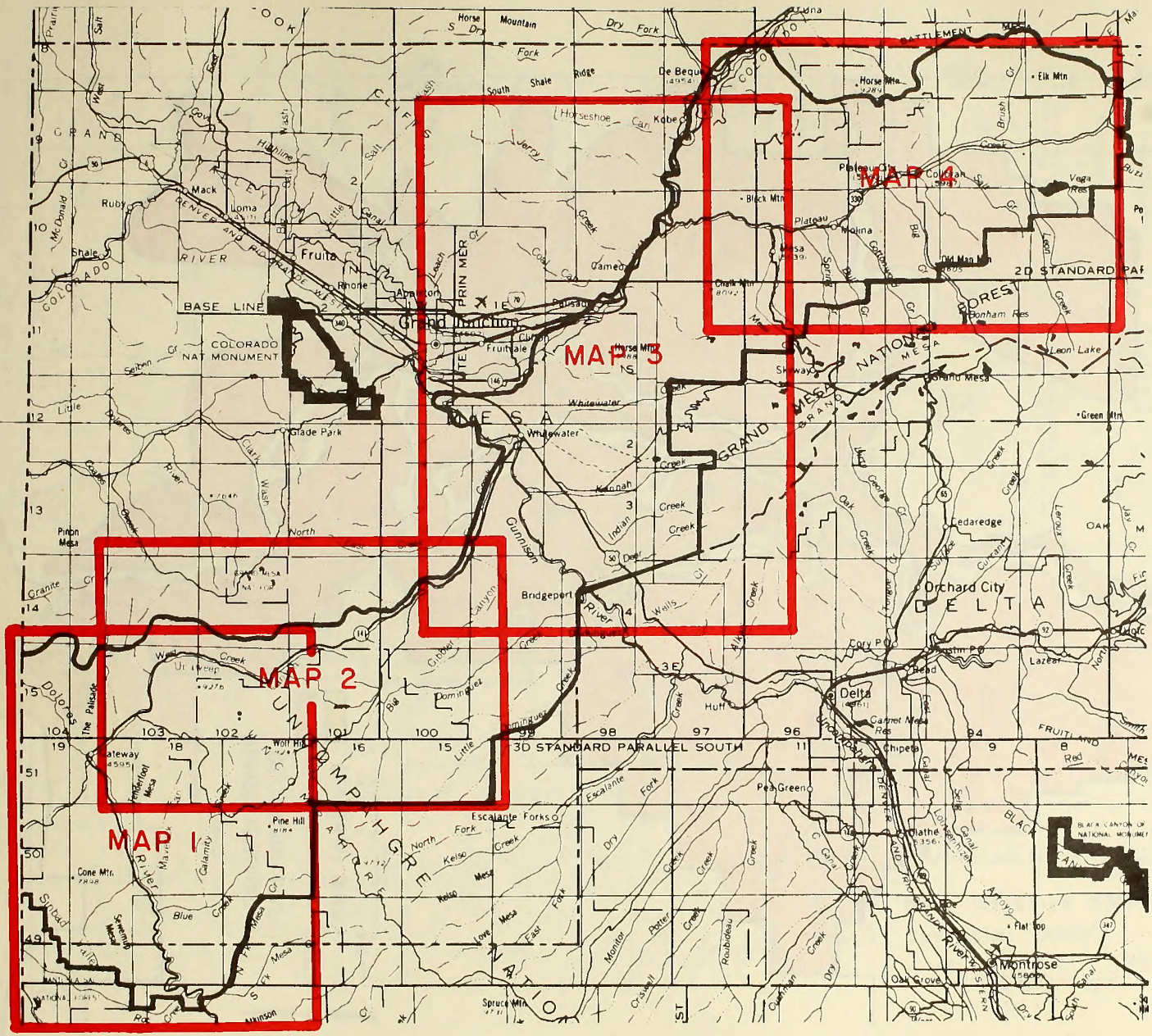
Rationale:

Many allotments within the Planning Area are isolated, small in acreage and have low forage production potential. It would not be economically feasible to develop Intensive AMPs for these areas. However, it is important that BLM insure that these areas are managed in a manner not detrimental to the environment. Determinations should be made and based on the requirements of the vegetation, not the livestock operation.

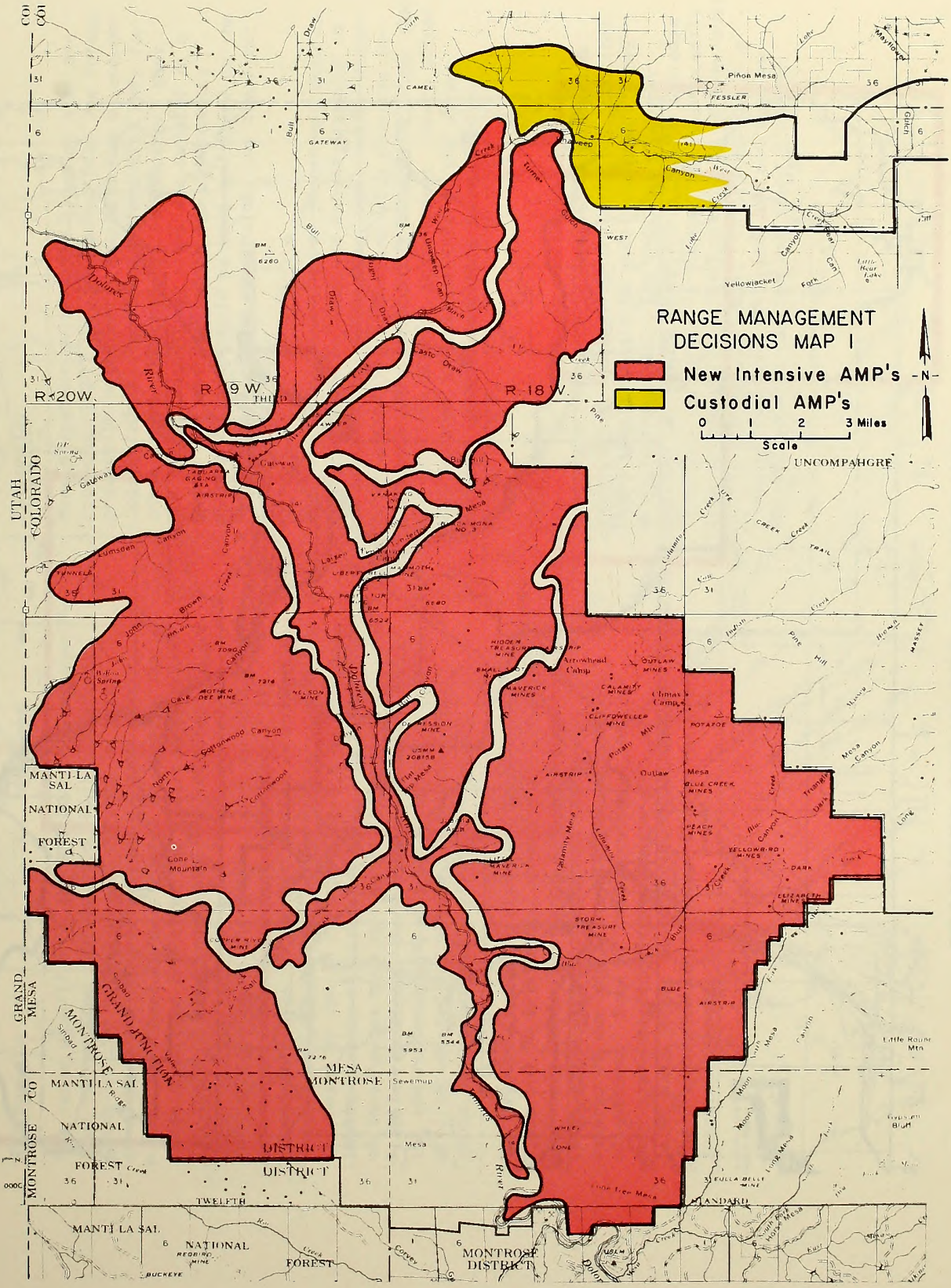
3. Vegetation manipulation practices, such as pinon-juniper chaining and others designed to increase forage production, will not be undertaken except in conjunction with properly implemented AMPs and Habitat Management Plans (HMP) for wildlife habitat improvement. Every effort will be made to utilize AMPs to the extent possible without resorting to vegetation manipulation.

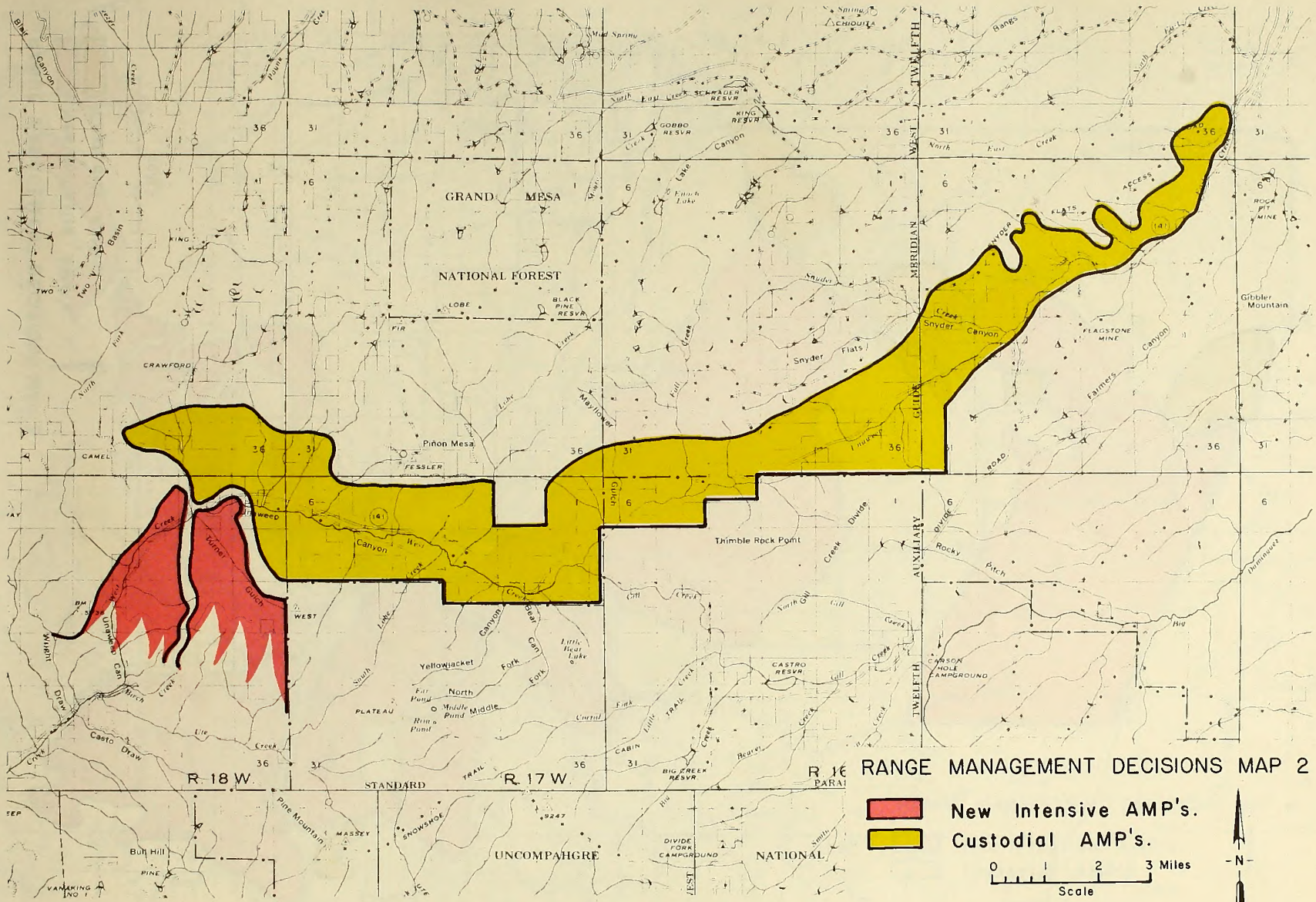
Rationale:

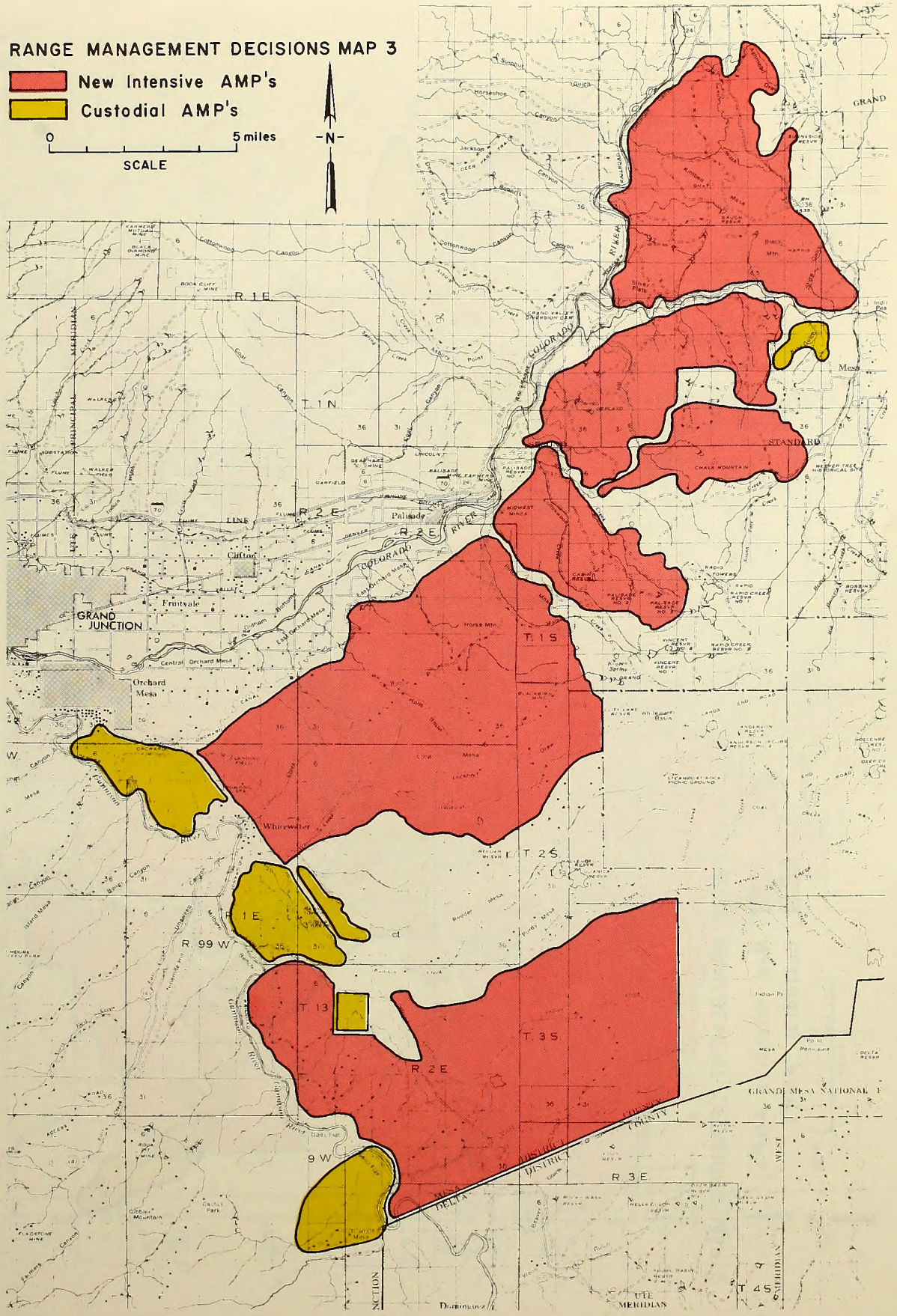
Many other resource values can be damaged or destroyed by vegetation manipulation practices. Every effort should be made to protect these fragile resources. The chaining of pinon-juniper has been a common practice to increase livestock and wildlife forage, but has recently come under public criticism because of previously poorly planned projects. This practice is a viable management tool, but its use must be approached with caution and sound planning.

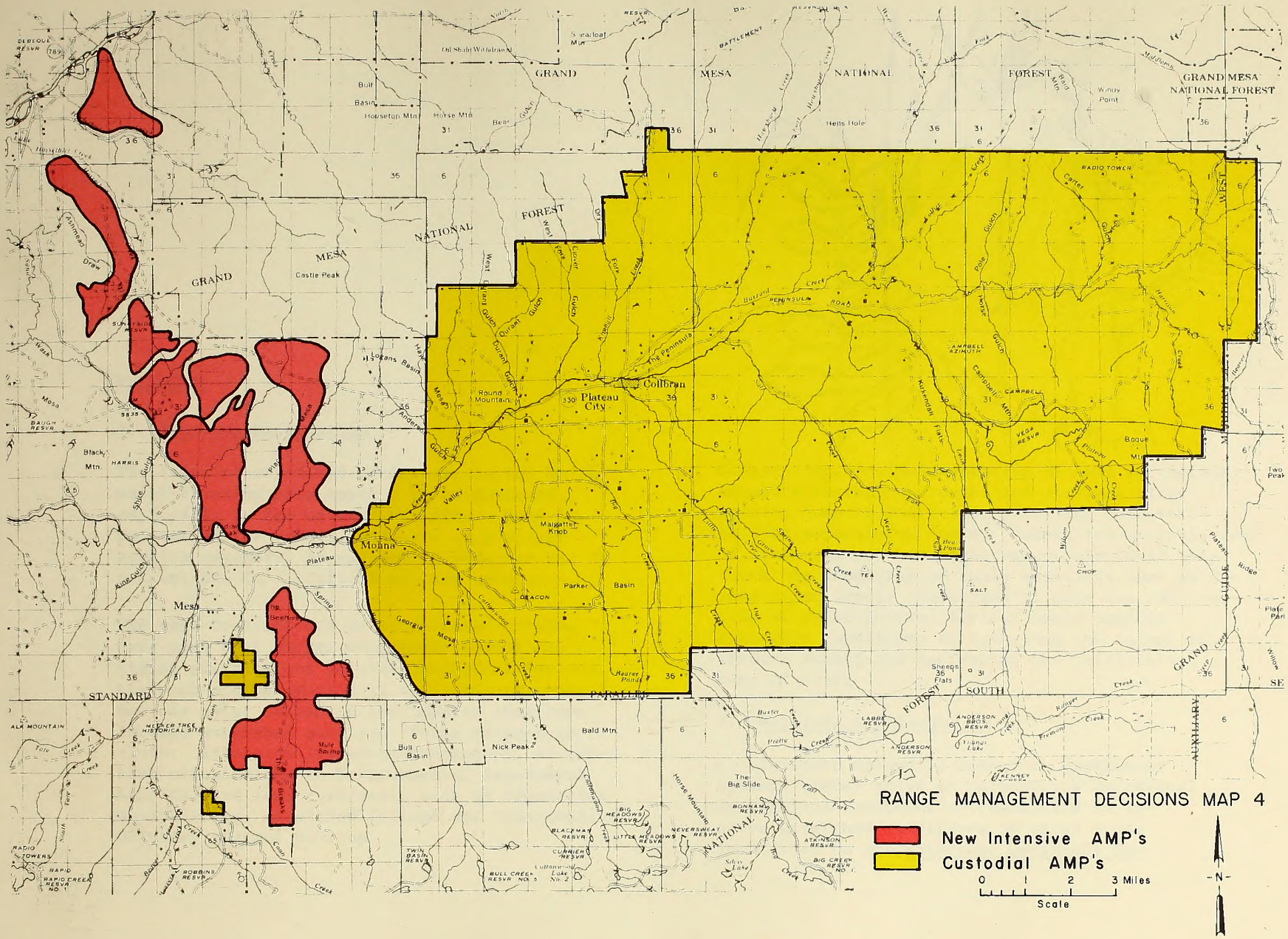


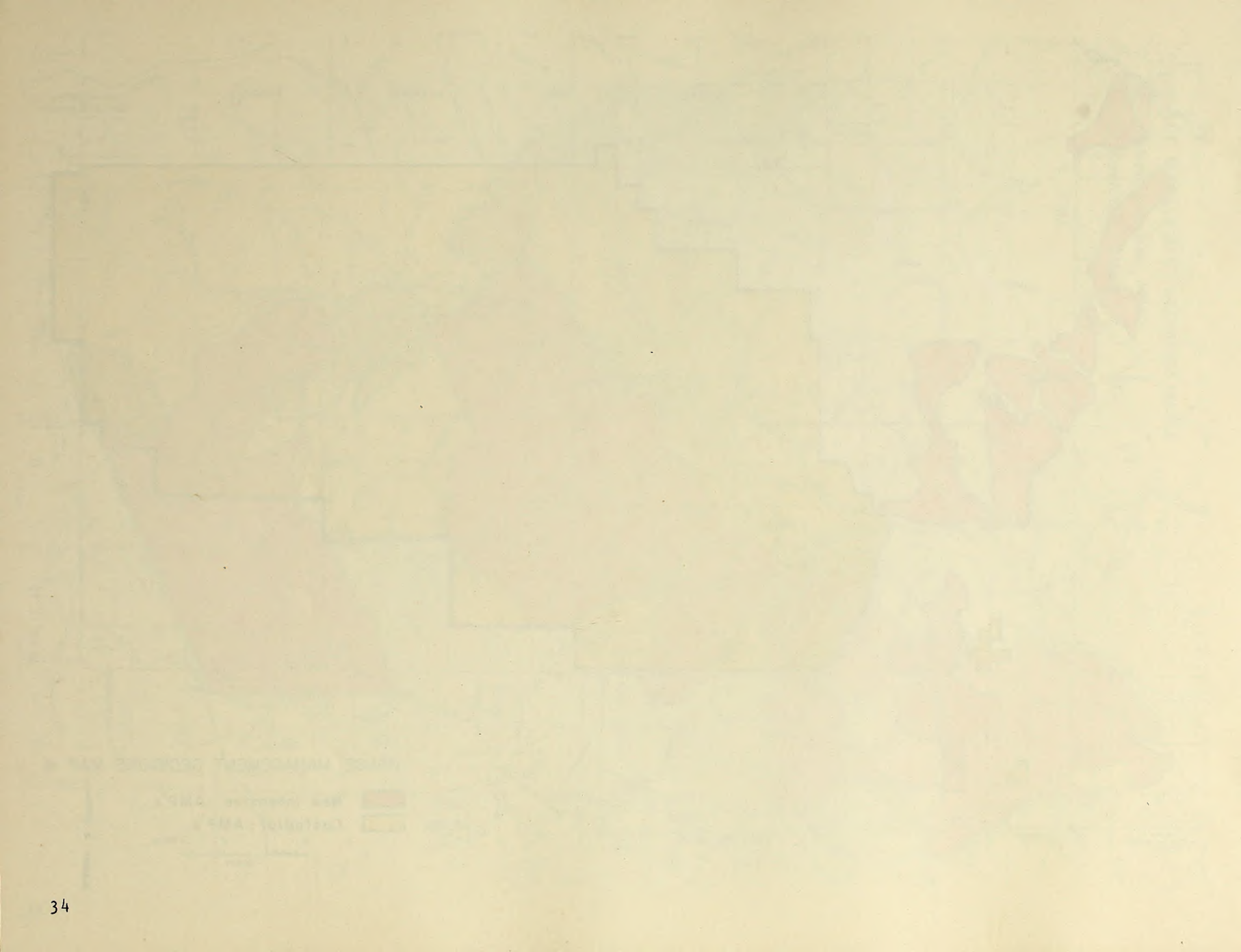

LOCATION MAP FOR RANGE DECISIONS


RANGE MANAGEMENT
DECISIONS MAP I
New Intensive AMP's
Custodial AMP's
0 1 2 3 Miles
Scale
-N-
R 20W
R 19 W
R 18 W
UTAH
COLORADO
MANTI-LA SAL
NATIONAL
FOREST
GRAND MESA
MONTROSE
MESA
MONTROSE
DISTRICT
UNCOMPAHGRE
GRAND JUNCTION
MANTI LA SAL
NATIONAL
FOREST
TWELFTH
DISTRICT
MONTROSE
DISTRICT
Piñon Mesa
Yellowjacket
Cottonwood Canyon
Gateway
Gone Mountain
Mesa
Little Roune Mtn


GRAND MESA
NATIONAL FOREST
UNCOMPAHGRE
NATIONAL
Pinon Mesa
Thimble Rock Point
Snyder Canyon
Snyder Flats
Yellowjacket
Castro Draw
Turner Gulch
Bull Hill
Gibbler Mountain
R. 18 W.
R. 17 W.
TWELFTH MERIDIAN
RANGE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS MAP 2
New Intensive AMP's.
Custodial AMP's.
0 1 2 3 Miles
Scale
N


RANGE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS MAP 3
New Intensive AMP's
Custodial AMP's
0
5 miles
SCALE
-N-
R 1 E
T 1 N
R 2 E
T 1 S
T 2 S
R 1 E
R 99 W
T 3 S
R 2 E
9 W
R 3 E
T 4 S
GRAND JUNCTION
Fruitvale
Clifton
Palisade
Orchard Mesa
Whitewater
Mesa
STANDARD
COLORADO
GRAND MESA NATIONAL F
DELTA COUNTY
DISTRICT
UTE MERIDIAN


RANGE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS MAP 4
New Intensive AMP's
Custodial AMP's
0 1 2 3 Miles
Scale
N
Plateau City
Colbran
Mesa
Molina
GRAND MESA NATIONAL FOREST
GRAND MESA NATIONAL FOREST SOUTH
Round Mountain
Malpaiter Knob
Parker Basin
Castle Peak
Horsetop Mtn
Horse Mtn
Bull Basin
Nick Peak
Bald Mtn
The Big Slide
Hells Hole
Windy Point
Sheep Flats
Peninsula Road
Campbell Azimuth
Radio Tower
Vega Resvr
Boque Mtn
Black Mtn
Baugh Resvr
Standard Mountain
Meeker Tree Historical Site
Rapid Creek Resvr No 1
Bobbins Resvr
Twin Basin Resvr
Bull Creek Resvrs No 1 No 2
Blackman Resvr
Cunnier Resvr
Big Meadows Resvr
Little Meadows Resvr
Neversweat Resvr
Bonham Resvr
Atkinson Resvr
Big Creek Resvr No 1
Labbe Resvr
Anderson Resvr
Kenney Reservoir
Oil Shale Withdrawal
Sugarloaf Mtn
Battlement Mesa
Grand Mesa National Forest
Meeker
Parachute
Rifle
Grand Valley
Collbran
Plateau
Mesa
Molina
Debeque Resvr
Kimball Resvr
Mesa Resvr
Georgia Mesa
Beefront
Mule Spring
The Breaks
Parachute Creek
Roan Creek
Plateau Creek
Grand Valley
Peninsula
Kimball Mtn
Two Peaks
Plateau Ridge
Grand Mesa Guide
Salt Creek
Tea Creek
Chop Creek
Hubbard Creek
Hunter Ponds
Deacon
Cottonwood
Georgia Mesa
Mule Spring
Parachute Creek
Roan Creek
Plateau Creek
Grand Valley
Peninsula
Kimball Mtn
Two Peaks
Plateau Ridge
Grand Mesa Guide
Salt Creek
Tea Creek
Chop Creek
Hubbard Creek
Hunter Ponds
Deacon
Cottonwood



## WATERSHED

### A. Resource Description

The trend of watershed conditions in the Whitewater Planning Area appears to be downward, especially in the Gateway vicinity. Only 20 percent of the Public Lands are in a slight erosion category, 46 percent in moderate and 36 percent are in a critical erosion condition.

The main contributors to accelerated erosion have been poor forage management practices, mining activity and natural geological factors. Although active erosion is difficult to control, methods exist to lessen the impacts that have lowered watershed quality. These methods include: intensive livestock management, protective stipulations in Environmental Assessment Records, and land treatment, such as vegetation manipulation, watershed tillage and construction of water control devices.

Preparation and implementation of AMPs by the BLM should help reduce erosion and increase plant species numbers and types, providing more soil-holding capacity by roots. Vegetation manipulation of pinon-juniper and sagebrush stands would help check the expansion of these naturally poor watershed cover types. Watershed tillage and construction of water control devices could improve watershed conditions by lessening the volume of erosive runoff and increasing the infiltration rate of soils.

### B. Multiple Use Decisions

1. Initiate intensive livestock management systems (AMPs) prior to authorizing mechanical or chemical treatment of vegetation to improve watershed conditions on those areas identified on the Watershed Decisions Map.

Rationale:

To insure success and improve the cost/benefit ratio of chemical and mechanical watershed treatments, intensive management of livestock is essential. Opportunities for watershed improvement exist through chemical and mechanical treatment, but their effectiveness would be lowered without a greater level of management. Without this occurrence, it is likely that the cost of treatment would be greater than the benefits derived, making treatment uneconomical and ineffective. It should also be recognized that not all areas can be treated. In some cases, implementation of AMPs may be the only viable approach to improving watershed conditions.

2. Conduct an intensive study during Fiscal Year 1978 to determine resource damage and rehabilitation potential of the mining area near Calamity Mesa, east of the Dolores River (see Watershed Decisions Map). Following the study, develop detailed rehabilitation plans to be used with AMPs and HMPs proposed for the area by range and wildlife specialists.

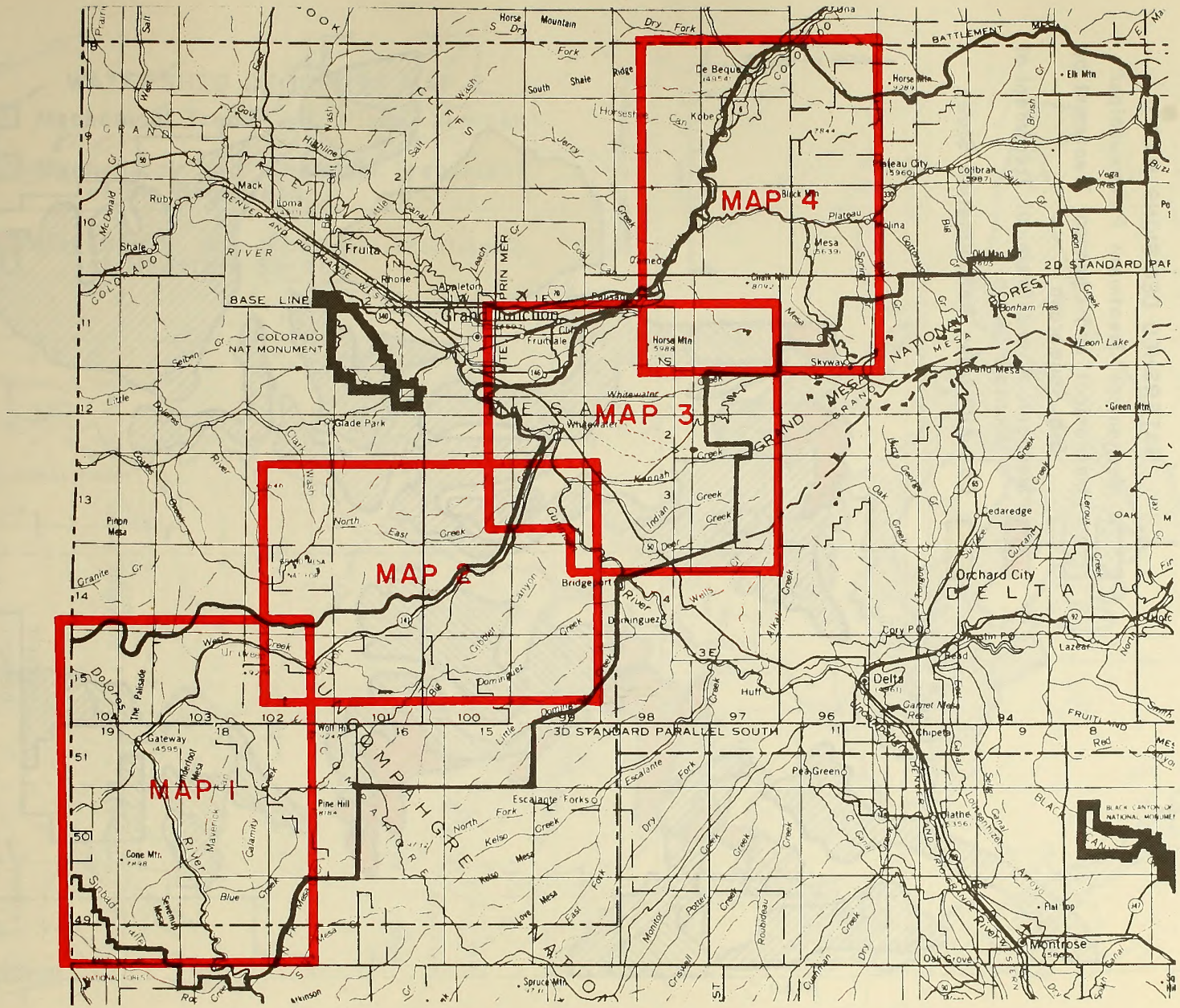
Rationale:

The area involved is located south of Gateway and is noted for its uranium mining activity. The watershed has been severely impacted by road construction and other surface disturbances. There is currently sediment from this mining activity reaching the Dolores River. Range and wildlife specialists have identified this area for intensive planning and management. It is likely that the objectives for all three resource activities (watershed, wildlife, range) can be reached utilizing AMPs and HMPs in conjunction with the rehabilitation plan.

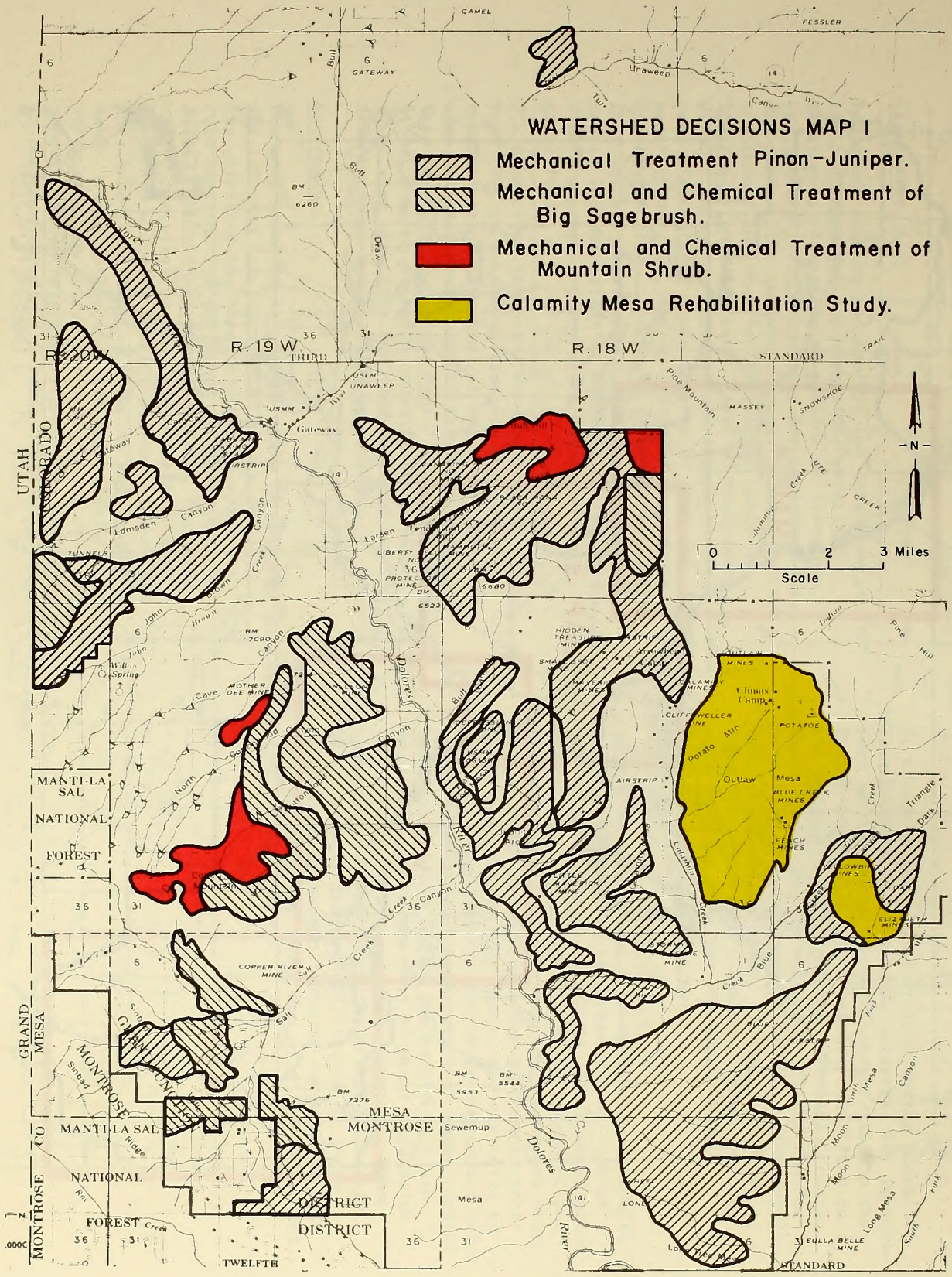
3. Conduct an intensive study during Fiscal Year 1979 to determine the potential for improvement of watershed values on those sites in the Kannah Creek vicinity, that are identified on the Watershed Decisions Map. Possible treatments could include watershed tillage and construction of water control devices. Following completion of the study, develop a detailed rehabilitation plan to be used in conjunction with AMPs and HMPs for the area.

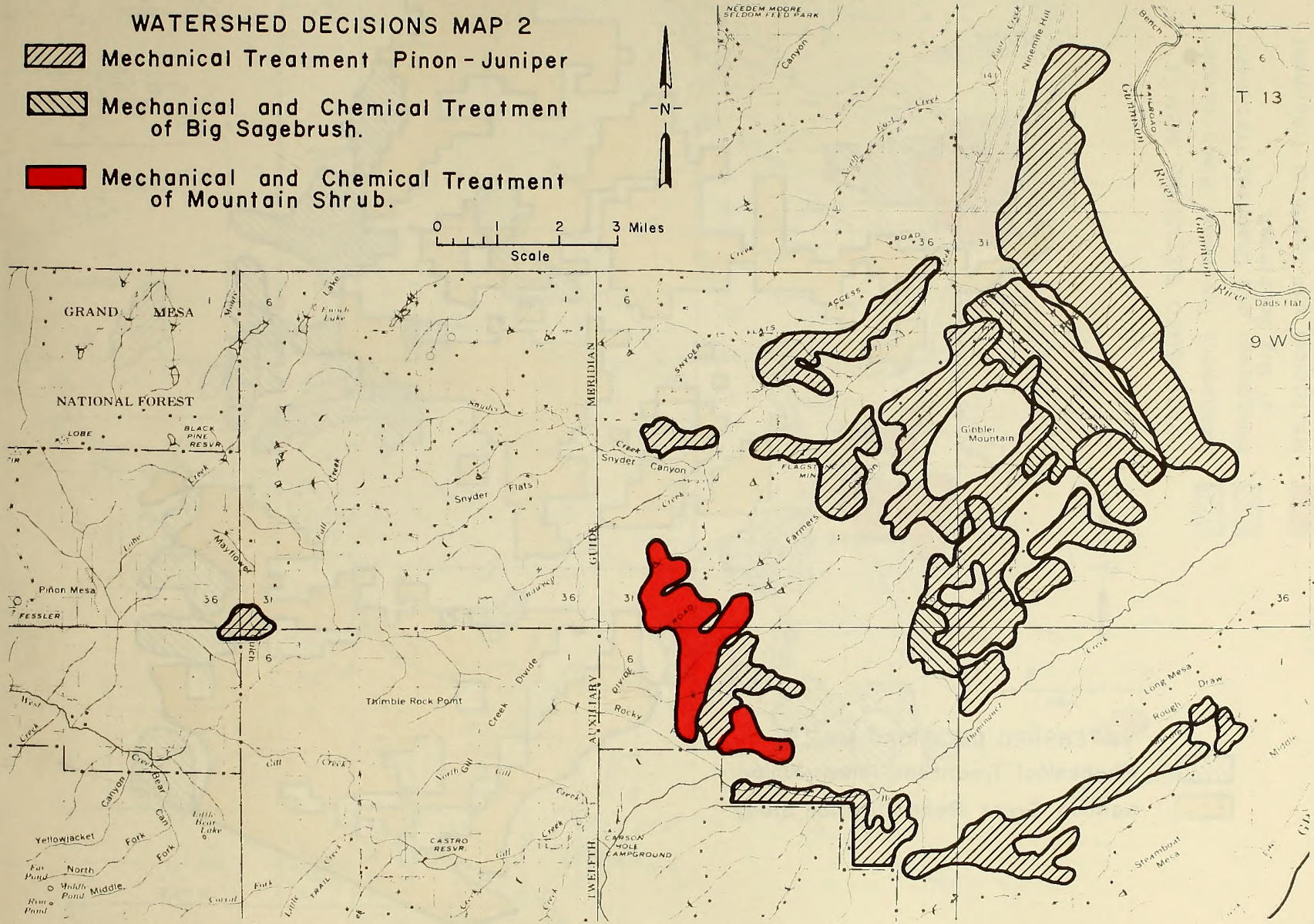
Rationale:

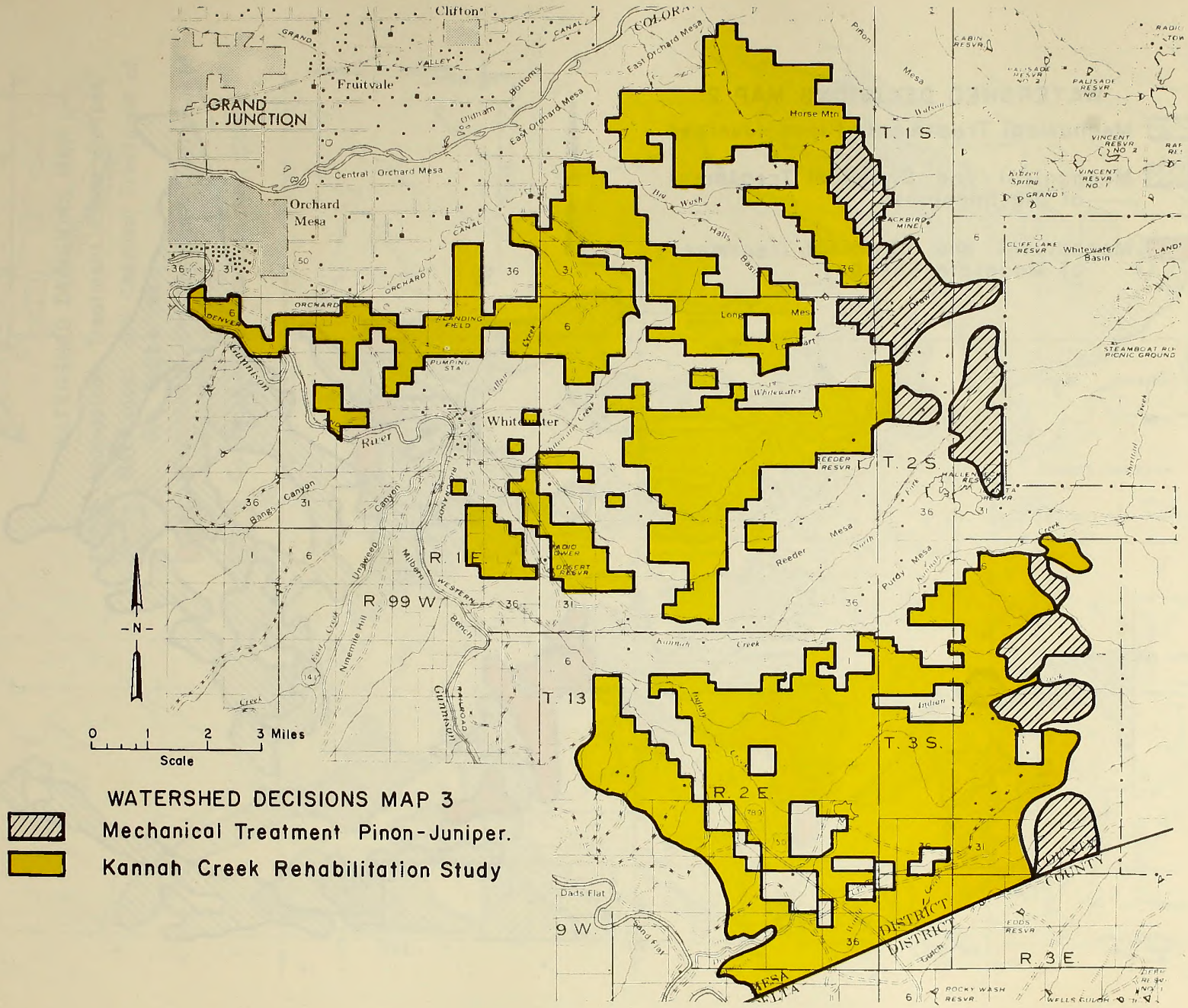
This area experiences high sediment yields with each intensive rain storm because of lack of ground cover due to soil type, low precipitation amount, past and present grazing pressure, and off-road vehicle activity. In those areas where ground cover can be increased or changed to a better watershed plant cover, sediment will be reduced, water quality increased and ground water recharge enhanced. Development of water control structures would reduce the hazard of flash flooding. As in the case of other vegetation manipulation practices, the success of these treatments is influenced by grazing activity. It is logical that rehabilitation of these watersheds be accomplished in conjunction with AMPs and HMPs for range and wildlife management.




LOCATION MAP FOR WATERSHED DECISIONS


WATERSHED DECISIONS MAP I
Mechanical Treatment Pinon-Juniper.
Mechanical and Chemical Treatment of Big Sagebrush.
Mechanical and Chemical Treatment of Mountain Shrub.
Calamity Mesa Rehabilitation Study.
R. 20 W.
R. 19 W.
R. 18 W.
THIRD
STANDARD
UTAH
COLORADO
MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST
GRAND MESA
MONTROSE CO
MESA MONTROSE
DISTRICT
TWELFTH
Gateway
Unaweep
Outlaw Mesa
Potato Mtn
Pine Mountain
Dolores River
Scale
0 2 3 Miles
N

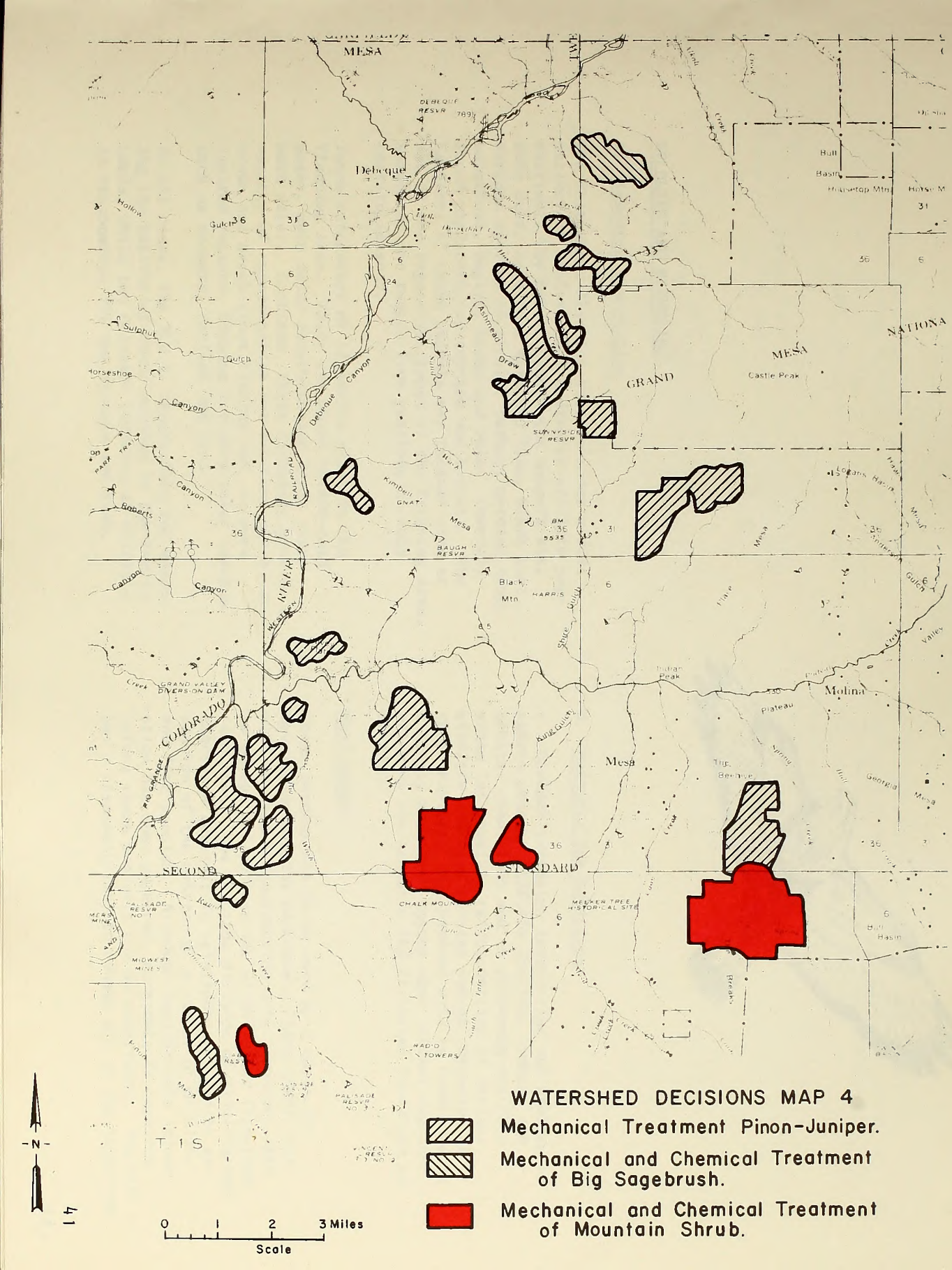

WATERSHED DECISIONS MAP 2
Mechanical Treatment Pinon - Juniper
Mechanical and Chemical Treatment of Big Sagebrush.
Mechanical and Chemical Treatment of Mountain Shrub.
N
0 1 2 3 Miles
Scale
GRAND MESA
NATIONAL FOREST
Pinon Mesa
Trimble Rock Point
Gibbler Mountain
Snyder Canyon
Snyder Flats
Farmers Creek
Dads Flat
Streambout Mesa
Long Mesa
Rough Draw
Yellowjacket
North Pond
Middle Pond
CASTRO RESVR.
CARSON HOLE CAMPGROUND
BLACK PINE RESVR.
LOBE
FESSLER
T. 13
9 W
GUNNISON
MERIDIAN
AUXILIARY
TWELFTH




WATERSHED DECISIONS MAP 3

Mechanical Treatment Pinon-Juniper.

Kannah Creek Rehabilitation Study

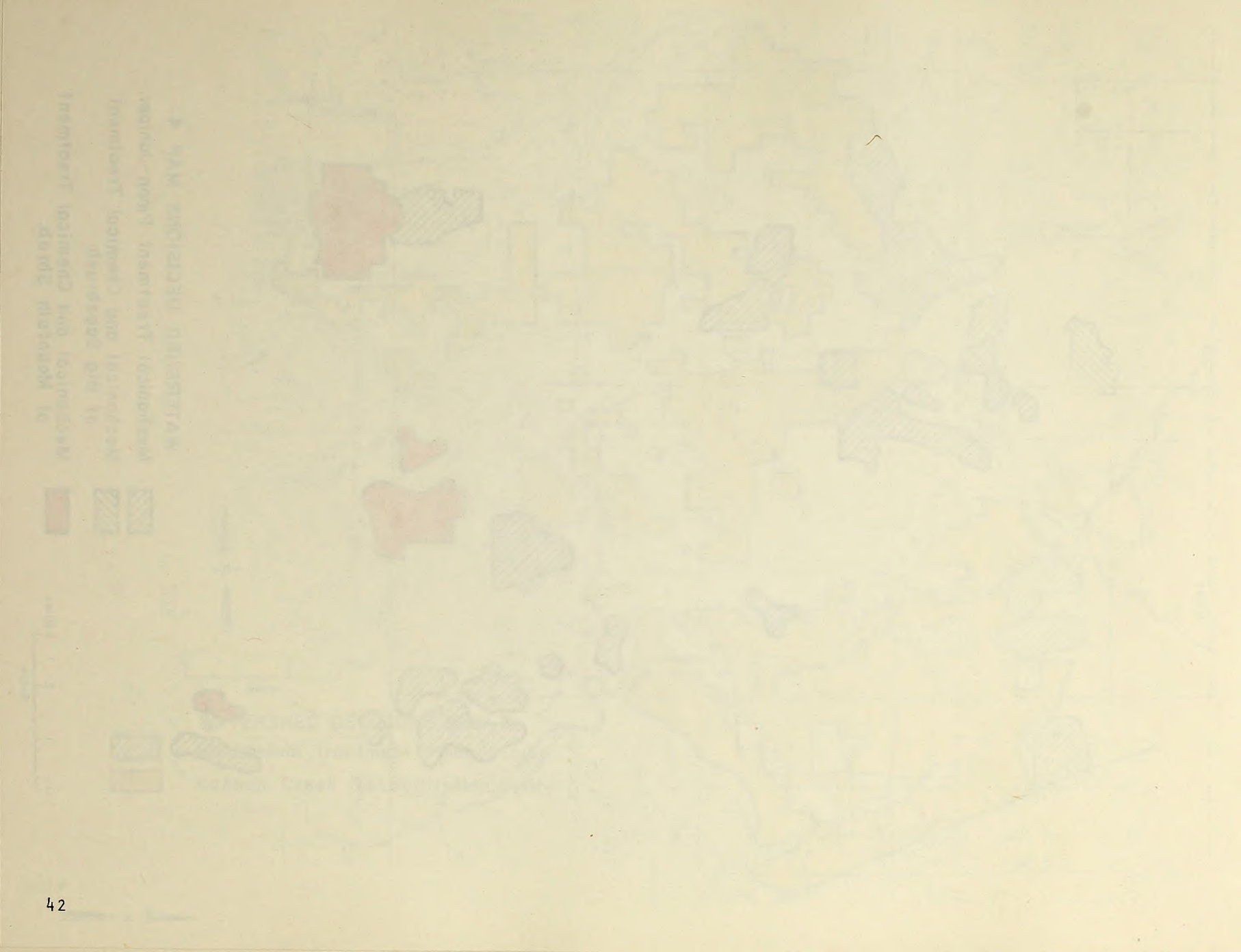


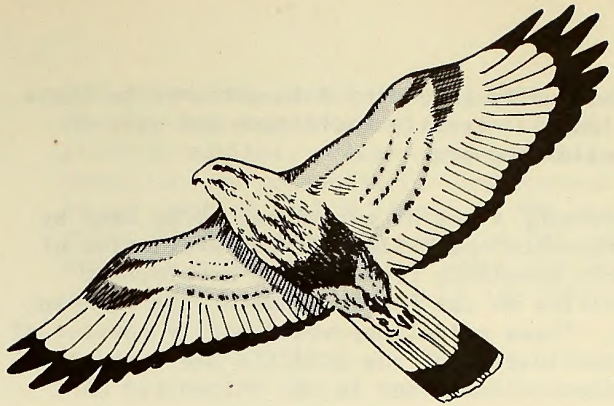

WATERSHED DECISIONS MAP 4

Mechanical Treatment Pinon-Juniper.

Mechanical and Chemical Treatment of Big Sagebrush.

Mechanical and Chemical Treatment of Mountain Shrub.





## WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

### A. Resource Description

The Whitewater Planning Area includes a wide variety of habitats for a diverse wildlife population. The Public Lands help support elk, mule deer, antelope, mountain lion, black bear, various species of grouse, turkey, morning dove, waterfowl, eagles, hawks and owls. Commonly found predators are coyotes and bobcats. The habitats of these animals may include some or all of the vegetation types of the Planning Area. Season of use ranges from yearlong to only certain seasons.

Three categories of fisheries exist in the Planning Area. These are small stream-cold water, warm water reservoir and large river-warm water. Combined, these fisheries provide a variety of opportunities for rainbow, cutthroat, brown and brook trout fishing and, to more limited degrees, fishing for warm water species such as suckers, catfish and bass.

In all cases, the BLM is responsible for managing the habitat of these species on the Public Lands, while the Colorado Division of Wildlife is responsible for the animals and fish.

### B. Multiple Use Decisions

1. Conduct intensive inventories and studies to assess present wildlife species, numbers and habitat conditions and to determine suitable areas for possible reintroduction of various wildlife and fish species and/or expansion of their habitat. The studies will be conducted in a timely manner to insure that further degradation of the wildlife and fisheries resources is avoided.

Rationale:

These studies are to be used as a basis for developing Habitat Management Plans (HMP) that will be used in conjunction with livestock AMPs to manage and enhance the wildlife and fisheries resources. The Colorado Division of Wildlife has expressed interest in reintroduction and/or expansion of the habitat of a number of wildlife and fish species. Although considerable information has been gathered, more data is required before these projects can be undertaken. The BLM has a responsibility to manage all of the resources

of the Public Lands and data gathered by these studies will greatly facilitate analysis of potential impacts.

2. Develop a set of guidelines to be used by BLM resource specialists in the evaluation of impacts resulting from various development activities on the Public Lands of the Planning Area. These guidelines would mostly consist of a consolidation of the wildlife and fisheries recommendations found in the Whitewater MFP.

Rationale:

A number of recommendations made by the wildlife and fisheries specialists dealt with measures to mitigate impacts due to various types of activities (e.g., construction projects, sales of forest products, vegetation manipulation and many others). These recommendations are necessary steps to insure that wildlife impacts are properly evaluated before projects are undertaken on the Public Lands. A consolidation of these recommendations will provide a useful set of guidelines for impact analysis.

3. The following decisions were made concerning the Nokomis Fritillary butterfly habitat on Public Lands, (See Wildlife Decisions Map for location):

a. Fence the critical habitat area that is located on Public Lands as soon as possible to control livestock use.

b. Herbicide spraying will not be allowed on Public Lands in the habitat area and will be discouraged on the private portion of the habitat.

c. Baseline studies will be conducted to determine the Nokomis butterfly's ecological requirements and the potential impacts of various resource activities on the habitat.

d. Oil and gas leasing with a "no occupancy" stipulation may be allowed pending an evaluation of the effects on the subsurface aquifers which feed the spring area.

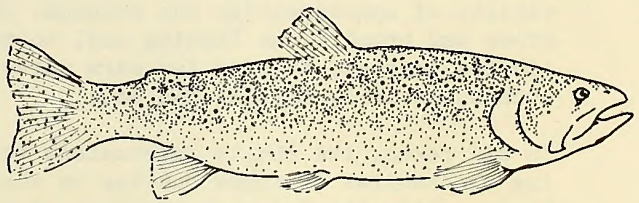
e. Seek a withdrawal of the area from mineral entry under the General Mining Laws.

f. Close the area to off-road vehicle use.

g. Develop a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) for the butterfly area. In the interim, prepare a brief management plan during Fiscal Year 1978, detailing management goals and steps required to protect the area.

Rationale:

The present colony of Nokomis Fritillary is dependent on a spring area located on public and private land. The larva is totally dependent on the violet (Viola nephrophylla) as a food source. This plant only grows on seep areas normally associated with willows. The butterfly is very



specialized in its habitat requirements and is known to occur in only two or possibly three locations in Colorado. This is the largest known population in Colorado. A unique combination of water, elevation, climate and vegetation are necessary to provide the habitat needs of this species. The decisions made in the Whitewater MFP should ensure the survival of this unique resource.

4. Develop Habitat Management Plans (HMPs) on the following areas depicted on the Wildlife Decisions Map, in descending order of priority:

a. Unaweep Canyon

b. Lands End

c. Collbran

d. East Dolores River

e. Dominguez

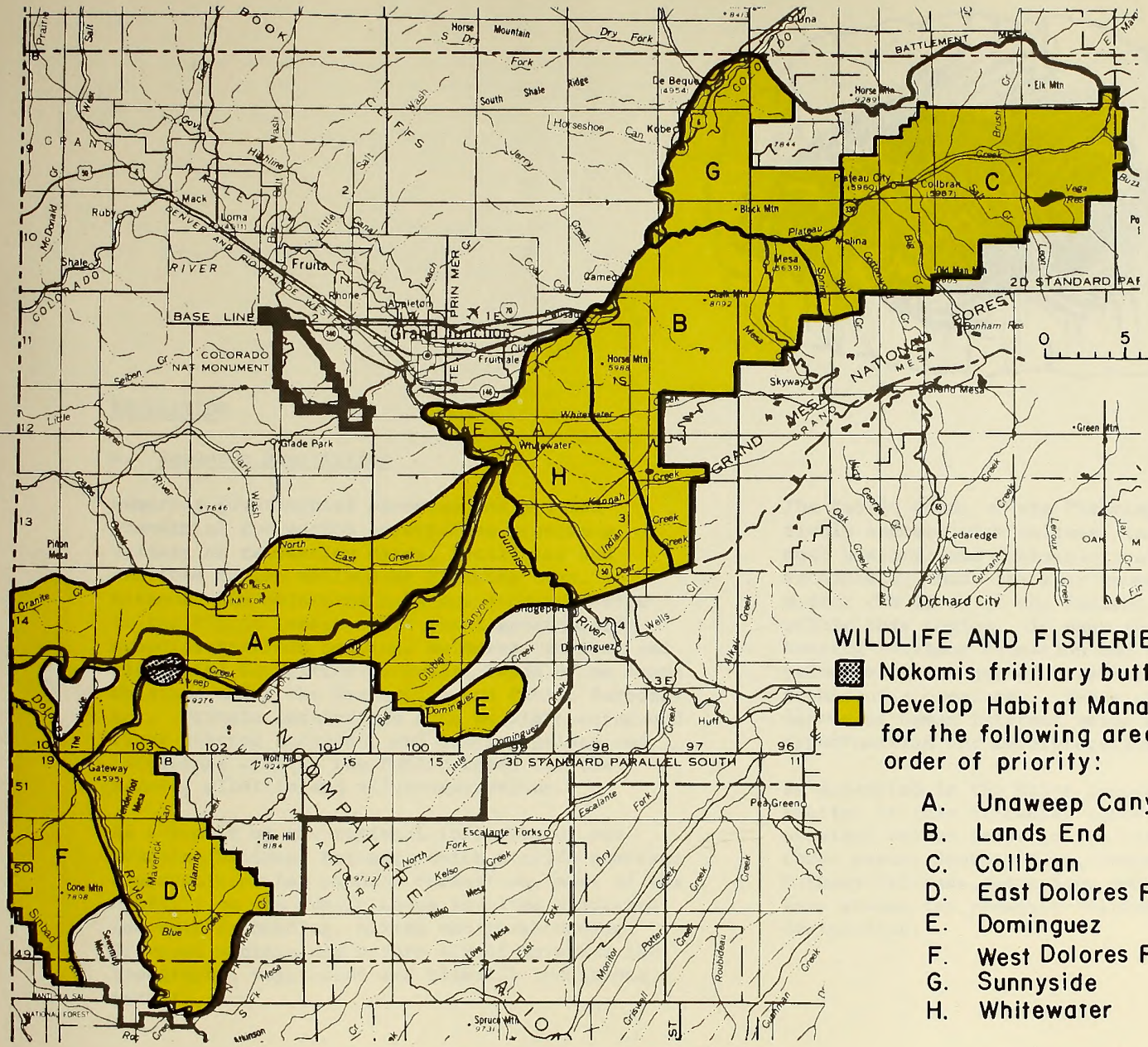
f. West Dolores River

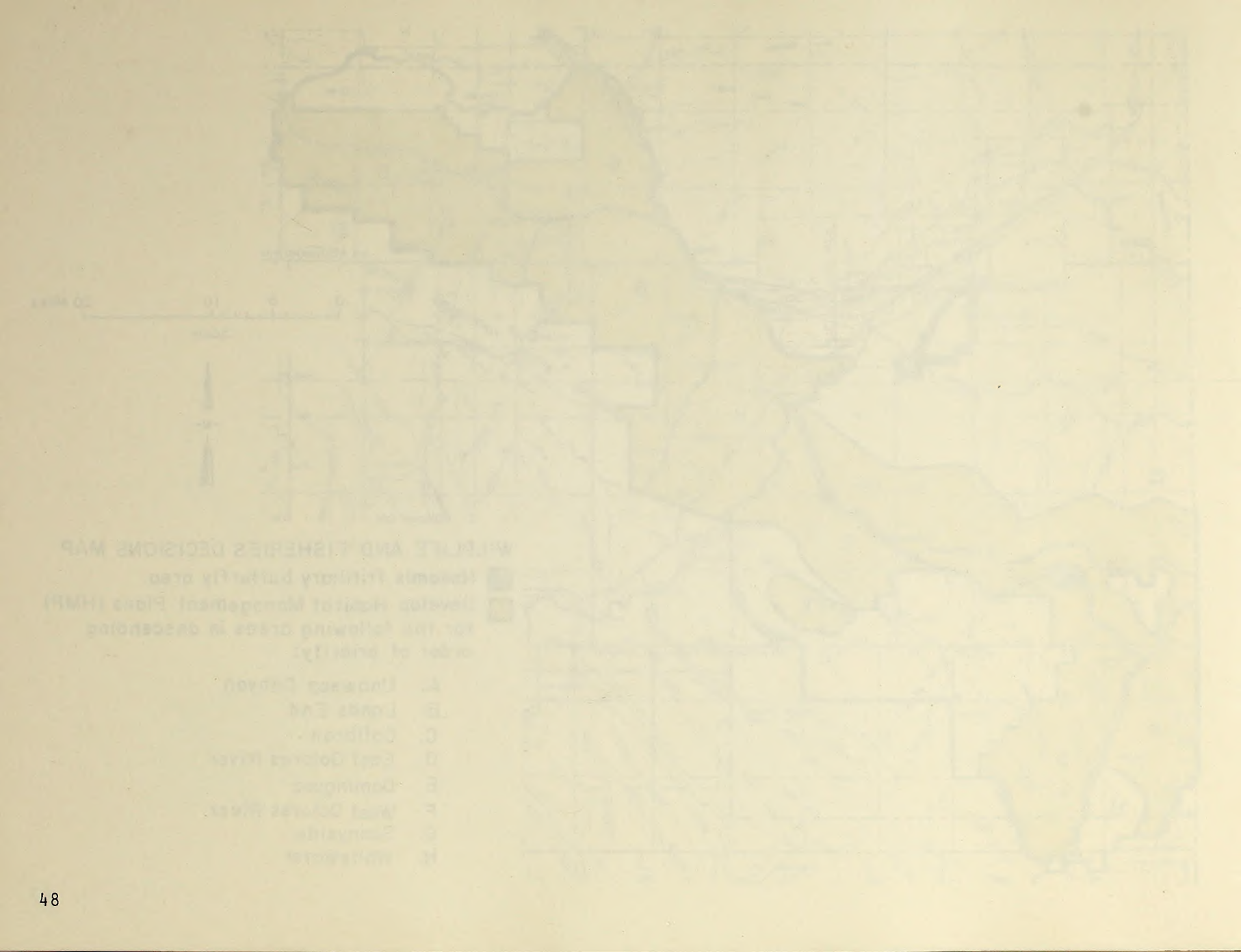
g. Sunnyside

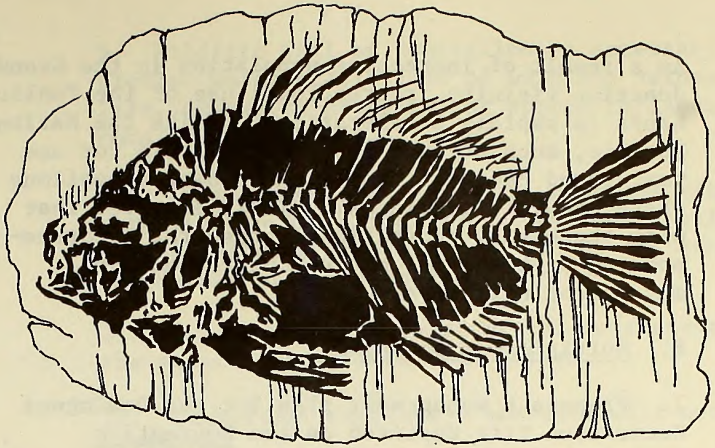
h. Whitewater

Rationale:

Based on inventories developed as a result of Wildlife Decision No. 1, the HMPs will be BLM's means of documenting detailed plans for expansion, improvement and maintenance of wildlife and fisheries habitat. The plans will consider all terrestrial and aquatic species within a natural biological unit. The established priorities are subject to change but are generally based on present information about the value of existing wildlife habitat, primary species present, habitat condition and potential for improvement. When used in conjunction with a livestock AMP, an HMP will allow BLM management to make logical decisions based on sound information about the vegetation, soils and living resources of the Public Lands.


A
B
C
D
E
E
F
G
H
0 5 10 20 Miles
Scale
N
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES DECISIONS MAP
Nokomis fritillary butterfly area.
Develop Habitat Management Plans (HMP) for the following areas in descending order of priority:
A. Unaweep Canyon
B. Lands End
C. Collbran
D. East Dolores River
E. Dominguez
F. West Dolores River
G. Sunnyside
H. Whitewater





## RECREATION

### A. Resource Description

Numerous governmental agencies and private commercial recreation enterprises provide a variety of recreation sites, facilities and services in the Whitewater Planning Area. Although BLM maintains only one developed site on the Public Lands, other local governmental agencies maintain boating, swimming, camping and picnicking facilities on Public Lands or on lands obtained under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. Private enterprises such as sightseeing and river touring services, and hunting guides and outfitters utilize the Public Lands for their scenic, wildlife and wilderness values.

As a result of the regional influence of surrounding National Forests, which provide numerous opportunities for outdoor recreation, most of the activity on the Public Lands involves dispersed use such as hunting, hiking and rockhounding. Off-road vehicle use occurs almost anywhere that topography, vegetation and climatic conditions permit.

The Public Lands of the Planning Area are also richly endowed with cultural resources. While most historic and archaeological inventories are incomplete, there are many known locations which depict the lives of the Indians and early settlers within this region. In many areas, the fossil-bearing Morrison Formation has been exposed and paleontologists are discovering new species of prehistoric creatures. These sites possess some degree of human interest value and may provide opportunities for interpretation.

As described in the Major Issues and Problems section of this brochure, three areas possessing wildland values exist in the Planning Area. These three areas, Sewemup Mesa, Dominguez Creeks and Gateway-Palisade, have been sponsored by wilderness groups for possible "wilderness area" designation.

As a result of increasing population in the Grand Junction vicinity, recreational use of the Public Lands is rapidly accelerating. Unlike the National Forests, much of this land is available for use year-round because it exists at lower elevations where snowfall is minimal. It is expected that with increasing recreational pressure, a corresponding higher level of outdoor recreation management will be required.

B. Multiple Use Decisions

1. Prepare a management plan for the Dominguez Recreation Site depicted on the Recreation Decisions Map. Among other things, the plan will include goals and plans for maintenance, drinking water, access to and through the site, fire protection and the use of firearms in or near the site.

Rationale:

This site is the only developed recreation area administered by BLM in the Planning Area. At the present time, the U.S. Forest Service periodically maintains the area under an existing memorandum of understanding. Numerous problems have been identified with the site and need to be addressed in a logical manner. The management plan should help to identify them and lay out a method to solve them.

2. Complete studies to determine the feasibility of establishing interpretive sites and scenic overlooks on selected areas depicted on the Recreation Decisions Map.

Rationale:

There are presently no interpretive services provided by any public or private agencies within the Planning Area, yet the area contains a number of potentially excellent sites for geologic, archaeologic, historic, paleontologic, botanic and biologic interpretation. BLM policy and guidance provides for public use and development of significant natural and cultural values where such practices are consistent with preservation goals.

3. Complete additional resource analyses on the "Wildland Areas" delineated on the Recreation Decisions Map:

| Location | Acreage | Completion Date of Analysis |
|---|---|---|
| Sewemup Mesa | 16,000 acres | FY 1981 |
| Dominguez Creeks | 45,000 acres | FY 1982 |
| Gateway-Palisade | 14,250 acres | FY 1984 |

Until such time as a decision is reached on whether or not to designate these areas as "Wilderness Areas", the following interim management policy will be adopted:

1. Motorized transportation is restricted to existing seasonal use and primitive four-wheel drive roads.

2. No new road construction will be authorized within the areas.

3. No new project construction will be permitted, except that water storage projects may be permitted subject to conditions and stipulations deemed necessary to preserve wildland values.

4. Livestock grazing is permitted subject to special conditions and restrictions necessary to preserve wildland values.

5. Hunting and fishing are permitted.

6. Motorized equipment use is permitted.

7. Aircraft may land in the area.

8. Rights-of-way will not be granted.

9. Wildfire will be controlled as necessary to prevent unacceptable loss of wildland values or life, damage to property, or spread to lands outside study areas.

10. Insect and disease control programs will be permitted to the extent that they impart only minimal effects upon wildland values and other components of the ecosystem.

11. Public use will be permitted consistent with the maintenance of wildland values.

12. Commercial recreation services will not be permitted.

13. Commercial timber harvesting will not be permitted.

14. Prospecting and mining for locatable minerals will be permitted.

15. Mineral leasing will not be permitted except that mineral leasing with a no occupancy stipulation may be allowed up to one-half mile inside the exterior boundaries of the Sewemup Mesa Wildland Area.

16. Other proposed uses and programs not specifically mentioned above will be assessed in terms of their possible impacts on wildland and ecologic values.

Rationale:

These three areas have been singled out because they possess unique qualities of solitude, physical challenge, inspiration and wildland recreation values. The interim management policies are necessary in order to preserve, for study and assessment, certain natural and wilderness values that might be lost if these lands were used for other purposes. As a result of this decision, their resource values will be maintained for later review under Section 603 of the recently enacted Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

4. The objectives for management of the cultural resources of the Planning Area will be to preserve and protect archaeological, historical and paleontological sites and objects of scientific, historic or cultural interest, as prescribed by federal laws. Management methods to carry out this program will include:

a. Research and testimony to determine the location, character and potential of the cultural resources;

b. Protection of the resources from natural erosive factors and from injury or destruction by vandalism or illegal removal of artifacts or other relics;

c. Stabilization to stop the destruction of the resources when possible; and,

d. Restoration of significant cultural resources.

In support of this program, the following decisions were made:

a. BLM will not publish the location of any unprotected cultural resource.

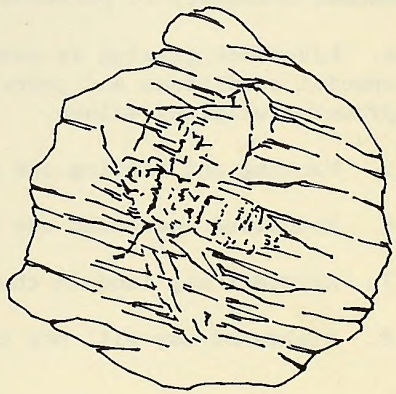
b. BLM will publish and distribute pamphlets emphasizing the fragile nature of cultural resources and the laws that are designed to protect them.

c. Photographic record and latex molds will be made of a number of petroglyphs and pictographs.

d. Inventories and surveys will be conducted in a number of large areas where little is known about the cultural resources.

Rationale:

Federal law and Bureau policy dictate that protection of our nation's cultural resources is paramount. The policies and decisions that were made concerning this program are necessary steps toward preserving these values for years to come.



5. With respect to off-road vehicle (ORV) utilization, the Public Lands of the Whitewater Planning Area will remain "undesignated" until completion of an ORV management plan, except as follows, (See Recreation Decisions Map):

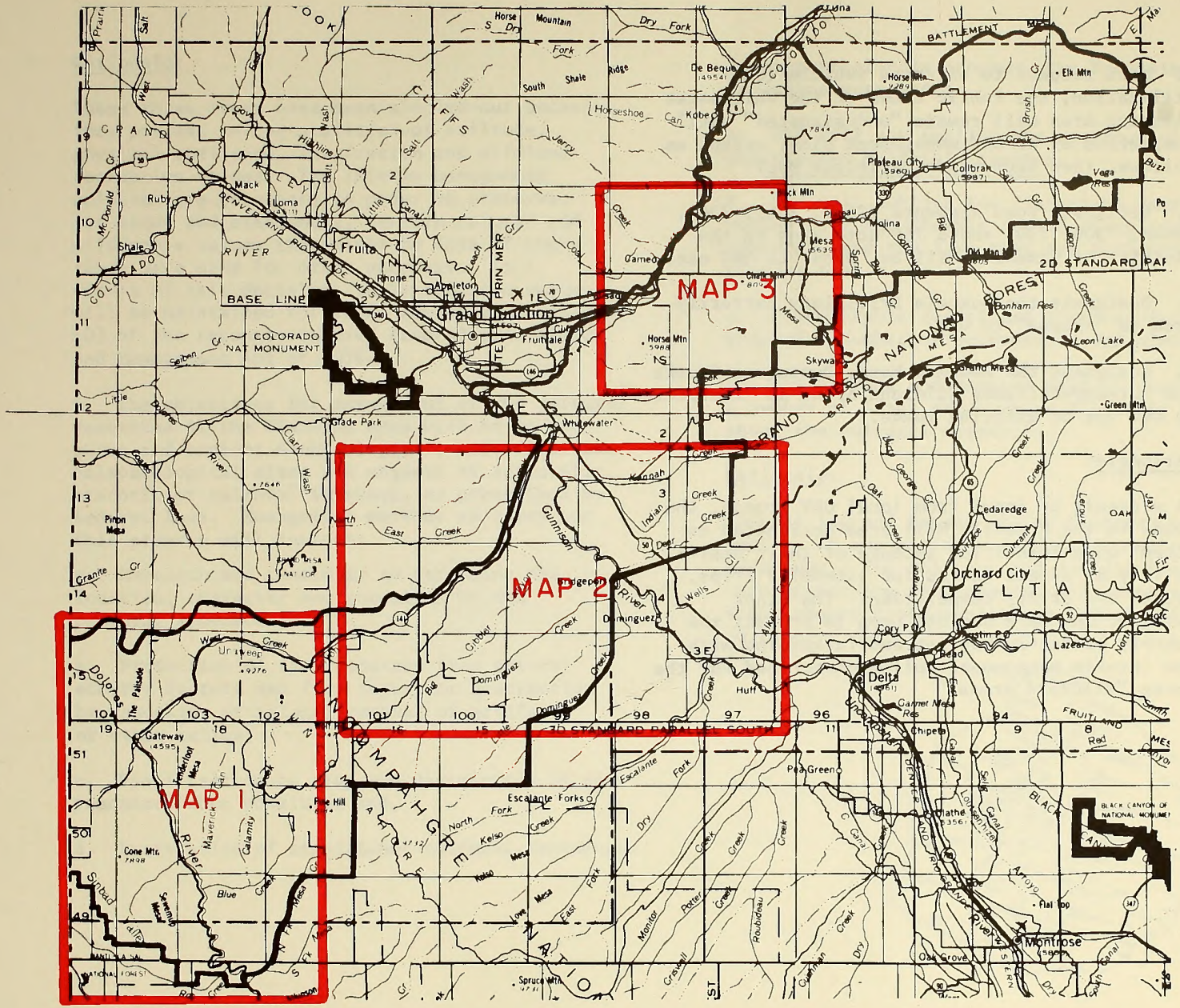
a. Designate road segments 7254B, 7361, 7364, 7364A, 7306, 7307 and a 750 acre area in the vicinity of Ninemile Hill as "open" to ORV use.

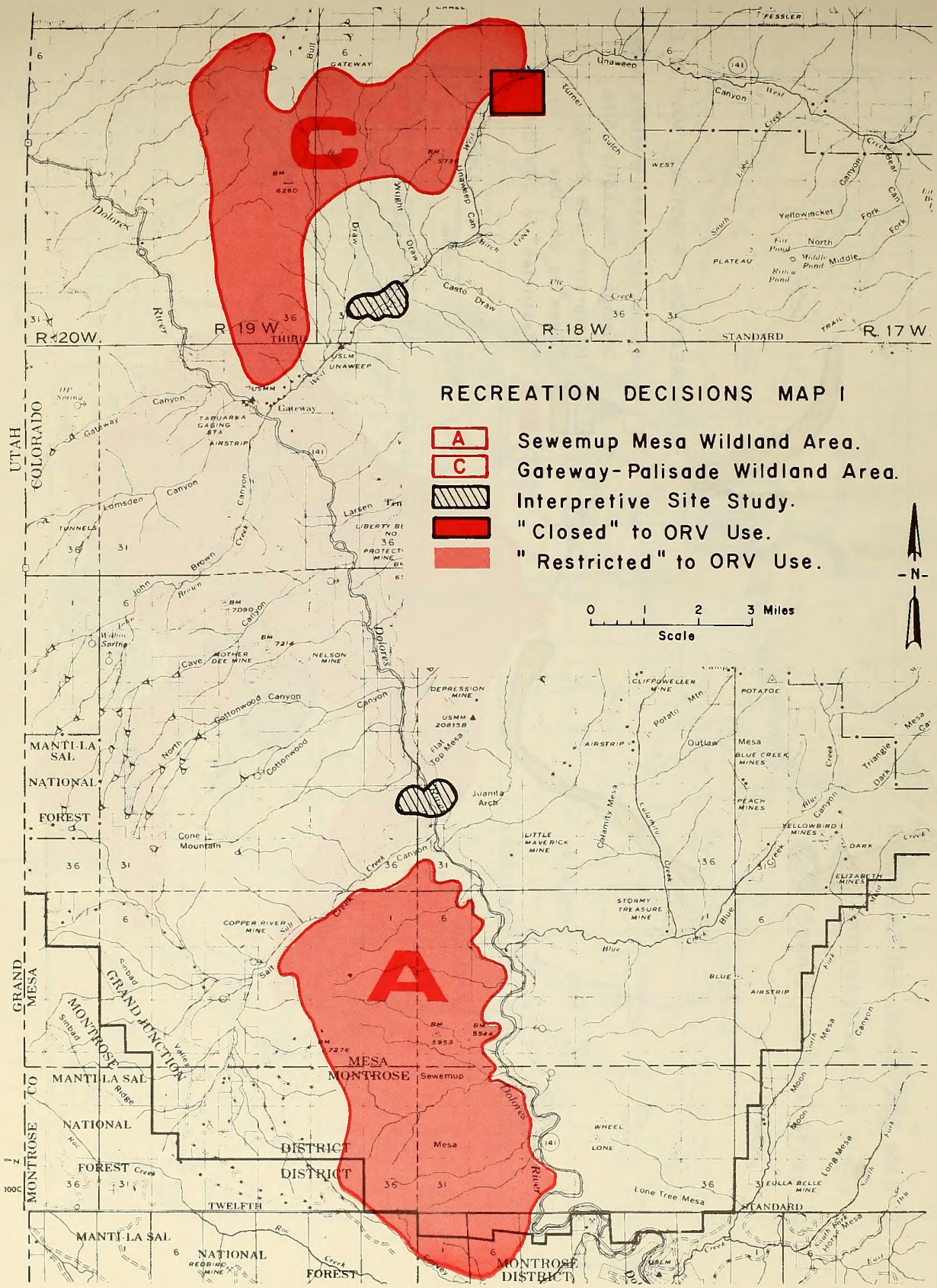
b. Designate the Nokomis Fritillary butterfly area as "closed" to ORV.

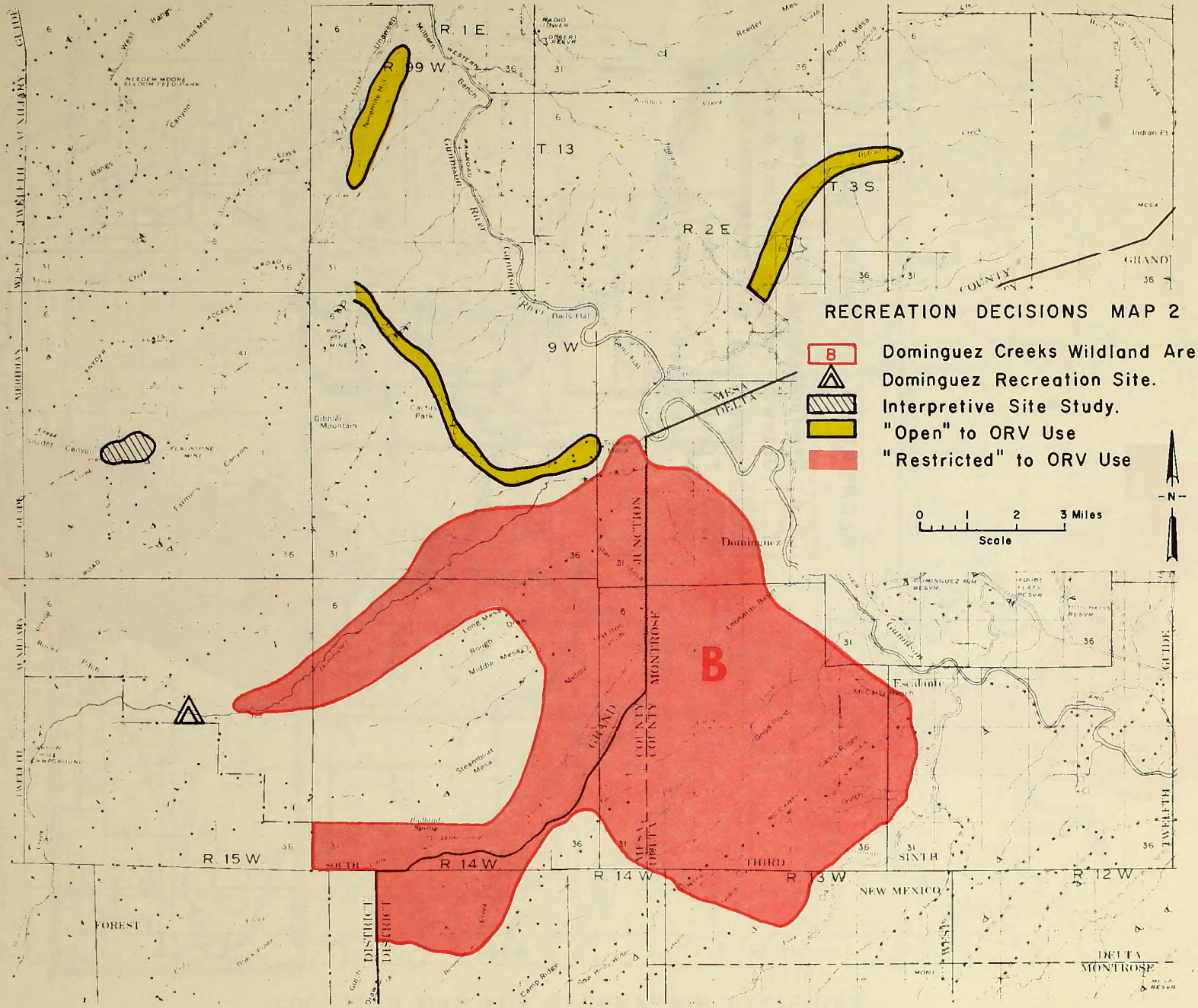
c. Designate the Sewemup Mesa, Dominguez Creeks and Gateway-Palisade Wildland Areas as "restricted" to ORV use on existing roads.

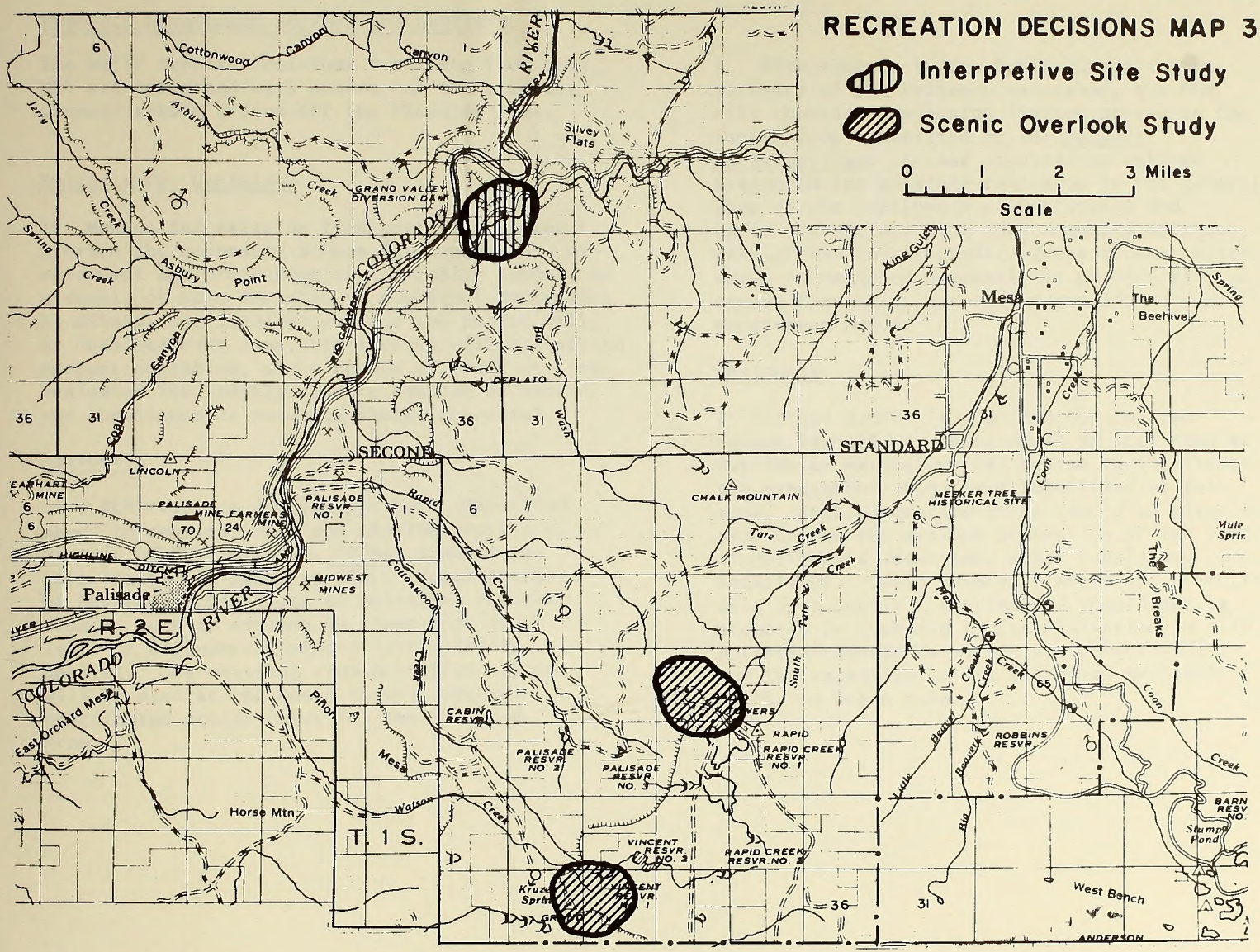
Rationale:

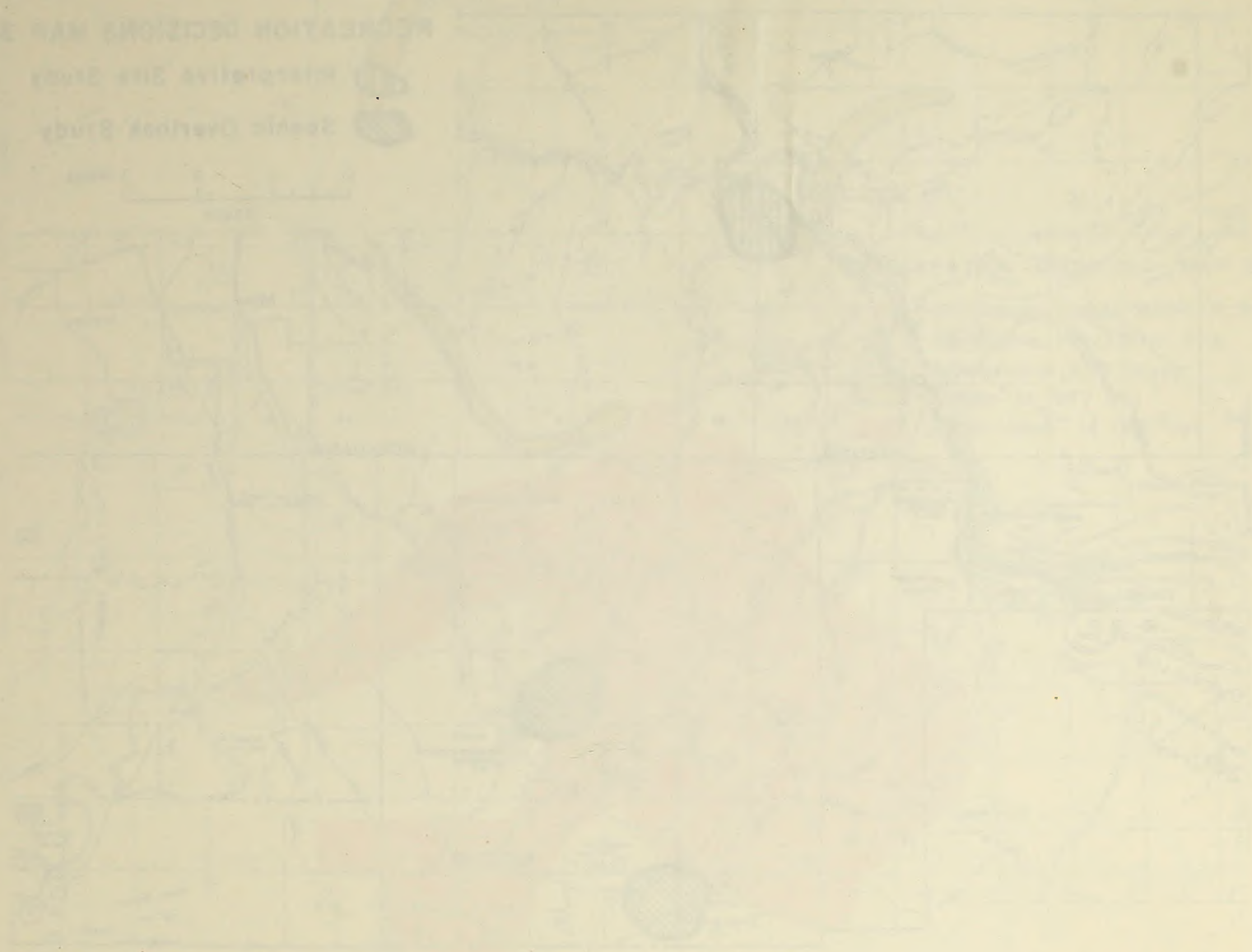
As a result of input from local ORV groups, the roads in the Ninemile Hill area designated as "open" were identified because of their desirability as access routes for scheduled trips, events and trials competition. The other designations were decided upon to protect the Nokomis butterfly habitat and in keeping with the interim management policy prescribed for the three "Wildland Areas."


MAP 1
MAP 2
MAP 3
Grand Junction
Fruita
Palisade
Clifton
Orchard City
DELTA
Delta
Montrose
Escalante Forks
Gateway
Colorado River
Gunnison River
Uncompahgre River
BASE LINE
6TH PRIN MER
6TH STANDARD PARALLEL SOUTH
20 STANDARD PAR
COLORADO NAT MONUMENT
BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL MONUMENT
GRAND MESA NATIONAL FOREST
UNCOMPAHGRE NATIONAL FOREST
BATTLEMENT MESA
Plateau City
Collbran
Molina
Mesa
Leon Lake
Bonham Res
Cedaredge
Paonia
Crawford
Hotchkiss
Lazear
Read
Cory
Austin
Chipeta
Pea Green
Blythe
Olathe
Flat Top
Oak Grove
Spruce Mtn
Cone Mtn
Rose Hill
Gardner Mesa Res
Leroux Creek
Surface Creek
Cottonwood Creek
Big Dominguez Creek
Little Dominguez Creek
Escalante Creek
Kelso Creek
Roubideau Creek
Monitor Creek
Potter Creek
Cerise Creek
Cottonwood Creek
Indian Creek
Kannah Creek
Whitewater
Glade Park
Redlands
Fruitvale
Appleton
Loma
Mack
Ruby
Rhone
Horse Mtn
Clark Mtn
Skyway
Green Mtn
Elk Mtn
Horse Mtn
Kobey
De Beque
Horseshoe Can
Jerry
Dry Fork
Horse Mountain
Shale Ridge
South Shale
Salt Wash
Highline Canal
Grand Valley Canal
Price Ditch
Government Highline Canal
Redlands Canal
Selbert Cr
Granite Cr
Pinon Mesa
Devils Kitchen
Devils Canyon
Devils Creek
Devils Canyon
Devils Canyon
Devils Canyon


RECREATION DECISIONS MAP I
A
Sewemup Mesa Wildland Area.
C
Gateway-Palisade Wildland Area.
Interpretive Site Study.
"Closed" to ORV Use.
"Restricted" to ORV Use.
0 1 2 3 Miles
Scale
N
R. 20 W.
R. 19 W.
R. 18 W.
R. 17 W.
UTAH
COLORADO
GRAND MESA
MONTROSE CO
MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST
MONTROSE DISTRICT
GRAND JUNCTION
MESA
MONTROSE
Sewemup
Mesa
Juanita Arch
Cone Mountain
Cottonwood Canyon
Unaweep Canyon
Gateway
Dolores River
Escalante Canyon
Calamity Mesa
Lone Tree Mesa
Long Mesa
Moon Mesa
Potato Mtn
Outlaw Mesa
Triangle Mesa
Flat Top Mesa
Yellowjacket Fork
Middle Fork
North Fork
Plateau
Standard
Twelfth
Trail


RECREATION DECISIONS MAP 2
B
Dominguez Creeks Wildland Area.
Dominguez Recreation Site.
Interpretive Site Study.
"Open" to ORV Use
"Restricted" to ORV Use
0 1 2 3 Miles
Scale
-N-
R. 1 E.
R 99 W.
T. 13
T. 3 S.
R. 2 E
9 W
R 15 W.
R 14 W.
R 14 W
R 13 W.
R 12 W.
Dominguez
Escalante
Gibbler Mountain
Steamboat Mesa
Middle Mesa
Rough
Long Mesa
Grand Point
Cactus Ridge
Camp Ridge
Indian Pt.
GRAND
MESA
DELTA
MONTROSE
COUNTY
JUNCTION
NEW MEXICO
FOREST
DISTRICT
SIXTH
THIRD
SOUTH
TWELFTH
GUDE
MANLIEU
SHERIDAN
WEST
Gunnison River
Dolls Flat
Indian Creek
Bangs Canyon
Farmers Canyon
Snyder Creek
Roubideau Creek
Escalante Canyon
Big Dominguez Creek
Little Dominguez Creek
Dominguez Creek
Dominguez Canyon
Dominguez Reservoir
Escalante Reservoir
Indian Creek Reservoir
Flat Reservoir
Mesa Reservoir
Needham Moore Wildlife Area
Radio Tower
Access Road
Pick Pit Mine
Pleasantone Mine
Cactus Park
Badland Spring
Campground
Ranger Station


RECREATION DECISIONS MAP 3
Interpretive Site Study
Scenic Overlook Study
0 1 2 3 Miles
Scale
Cottonwood Canyon
Asbury Creek
Spring Creek
Asbury Point
Canyon
Silvey Flats
GRAND VALLEY DIVERSION DAM
COLORADO
Big Salt Wash
DEPLATO
SECONE
STANDARD
LINCOLN
EARHART MINE
PALISADE MINE FARMERS MINE
PALISADE RESVR NO. 1
HIGHLINE DITCH
MIDWEST MINES
Palisade
R 2 E
COLORADO RIVER
East Orchard Mesa
Pinon Mesa
Horse Mtn.
T. 1 S.
Cottonwood Creek
Rapid Creek
CHALK MOUNTAIN
Tate Creek
MEEKER TREE HISTORICAL SITE
Mesa
The Beehive
The Breaks
Mule Spring
King Gulch
Coon Creek
South Fork
CABIN RESVR
PALISADE RESVR NO. 2
PALISADE RESVR NO. 3
RAPID CREEK RESVR NO. 1
RAPID CREEK RESVR NO. 2
ROBBINS RESVR
VINCENT RESVR NO. 2
VINCENT RESVR NO. 1
BARN RESV NO.
Stumpy Pond
West Bench
ANDERSON
Kruze Spring
36
31
6
1
65
70
24



## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SUPPORT AND SERVICES

The major support decisions resulting from this MFP are concerned with access and the existing transportation system for the Planning Area.

### Multiple Use Decisions

1. Manage the existing transportation system to provide the necessary access for management, development and protection of the Public Lands. As a result of this decision, a number of roads will be maintained, legal access for the public will be obtained over some, other roads will be left in present condition, and a number of roads will be evaluated for orderly closure because of hazardous conditions or resource damage potential.

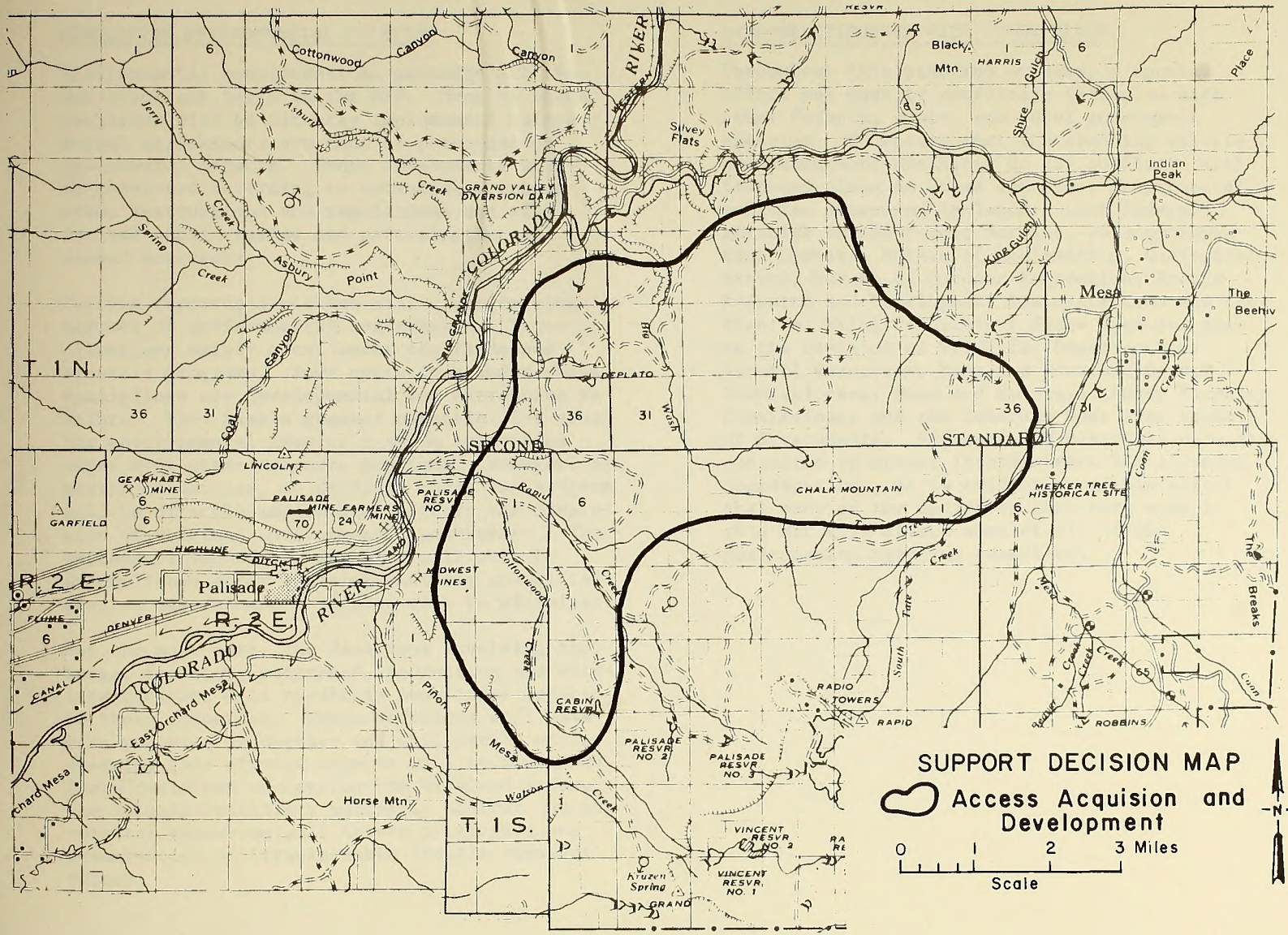
Rationale:

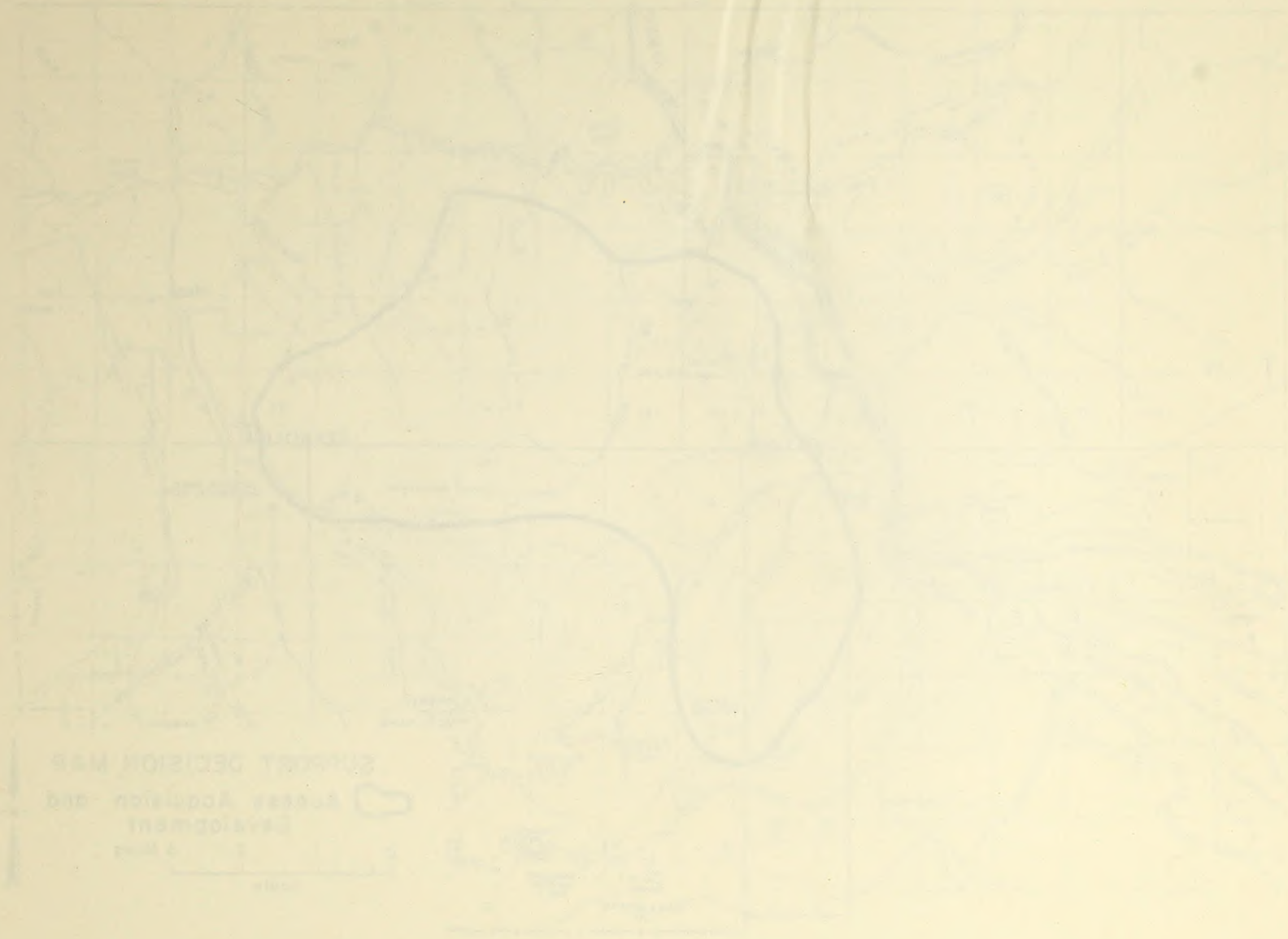
Some BLM resource specialists have identified needs to acquire legal and physical access to parcels of Public Lands. Other specialists have identified needs to limit access because of hazardous conditions or potential resource damage, such as erosion on steep road gradients or disruptions of critical wildlife habitat. The existing transportation system will be used as the means to evaluate the coordinated access needs for the Planning Area.

2. With respect to the Public Lands in the vicinity of the Palisade watershed, the BLM will consider developing limited access to the large block identified on the Support Decisions Map. Access acquisition will be evaluated for possible routes up to the general area of the confluence of Cottonwood and Rapid Creeks, and from the community of Mesa, east of the Public Lands. These access points would be designed primarily to provide limited access for public use and to facilitate other management needs.

Rationale:

If limited access is acquired for the two routes identified, there would be less need to develop an extensive road system to facilitate the management objectives identified at this time. Special consideration should be given to provide for the maximum protection of the town of Palisade's watershed, water supply and facilities. Cabin Reservoir would not be suitable as a public fisheries and should not be promoted as such due to its limitation in size, potential damage to water supply facilities, and the extensive public fisheries available nearby on Grand Mesa.


SUPPORT DECISION MAP
Access Acquision and Development
0 1 2 3 Miles
Scale
N
T. 1 N.
T. 1 S.
R. 2 E.
R. 3 E.
COLORADO RIVER
Palisade
SECORE
STANDARD
DEPLATO
LINCOLN
GARFIELD
CHALK MOUNTAIN
Mesa
Horse Mtn.
Black Mtn.
Indian Peak
Silvey Flats
Cottonwood Canyon
Asbury Creek
Spring Creek
Asbury Point
Coal Canyon
GRAND VALLEY DIVERSION DAM
GEARHART MINE
PALISADE MINE
FARMERS MINE
PALISADE RESVR NO. 1
PALISADE RESVR NO. 2
PALISADE RESVR NO. 3
CABIN RESVR
VINCENT RESVR NO. 2
VINCENT RESVR NO. 1
HIGHLINE DITCH
MIDWEST MINES
RADIO TOWERS
MEEKER TREE HISTORICAL SITE
ROBBINS
Kruzen Spring
East Orchard Mesa
Orchard Mesa
The Breaks
The Beehiv
King Gulch
Harris Gulch
Place
Rapid
South Fork
Walker Creek
Pinon Mesa
Cottonwood Creek
Jerry Creek
Wash
Rio Grande
DENVER CANAL
FLUME



## CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

Environmental considerations permeate all the decisions set forth in the MFP. None of these decisions will be directly implemented before formal assessments are made of potential environmental impacts. These assessments will be conducted according to established procedures, instructions and regulations and will include public review and participation as deemed necessary.

Certain resource decisions will cause varying degrees of environmental degradation. These situations mainly occur under the lands and minerals programs. Some operations under these disciplines are developmental and extractive in nature. They have a greater potential for causing environmental impacts than do activities under most other resource programs. However, as mentioned earlier, no decision under any program will be directly implemented without the completion of a formal environmental assessment. The implementation of any decision will only be accomplished after assuring that any associated adverse environmental impacts will be minimized.

For the most part, the decisions involving the range, forestry, watershed, recreation and wildlife programs will result in beneficial impacts to those resources. These decisions will maximize resource production and utilization while ensuring that adverse impacts will be minimized. Those decisions concerning the Wildland Areas, the Nokomis Fritillary butterfly habitat and the cultural resources will insure protection and preservation of irreplaceable fragile resource values.

## INTERRELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PLANS

Throughout this planning process, a special effort was made to coordinate this plan with other federal, state, and local government agencies. To ensure that BLM planning efforts and management decisions do not conflict with land-use plans of other agencies, governmental entities consulted included: such federal agencies as the Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Geological Survey, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Energy Research and Development Administration and the Fish and Wildlife Service; State agencies such as the Division of Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources; Mesa and Montrose County Commissioners; Mesa and Montrose County Planning Commissions; and the Colorado West Area Council of Governments. Adjacent BLM Districts were also consulted to ensure interdistrict BLM planning coordination. It is evident from this effort that many of the decisions that were made in this MFP will affect some or all of the governmental agencies consulted.

## ACTIONS AFTER THE MFP

This plan is the result of an intensive inventory and decision making process, involving considerable public input. As time goes on, new information may be gathered, legislation and policy governing BLM actions may change, and resource conditions or management requirements may differ from the existing situation. As these events occur, the decisions of the Whitewater MFP will be subject to change and additional public review. The MFP is really a continual planning process that responds to Public Land resource and management needs and will be subject to update and revision under public scrutiny.

Now that decisions have been made, actions will be taken by BLM management to implement them on-the-ground. These actions are subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and will require complete environmental assessment before initiation of any action. If the impacts would be unacceptable, the proposal may be modified or rejected.

Implementation of on-the-ground actions initiated by BLM is dependent upon Congressional funding. Therefore, it may be some time before funding is made available to implement some of these decisions.

GLOSSARY

As in most systems, BLM's Planning System has its own "language". To help you understand some of the terms used in this brochure, a glossary is included for reference:

Planning Unit (PU): A portion of a BLM district used for assembling resource inventory data. For each planning unit the District Manager prepares a Unit Resource Analysis.

Unit Resource Analysis (URA): A basic display of information on the land and its resources consisting of: Base Map, Physical Profile, Resource Inventory Summaries.

Resource Potential: The capability of the land to fill the public's needs for these activities: Lands, Minerals, Recreation, Wildlife, Watershed, Forest Products and Range Management.

Planning Area: One or more complete planning units for which a land use plan is prepared.

Management Framework Plan (MFP): A planning decision document which establishes, for a given planning area, land use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple use, and management objectives to be achieved for each class of land use or protection. It is the Bureau's Land Use Plan. It is prepared in the following three steps:

Step One Resource Recommendations

Step Two Impact Analysis & Alternative Development

Step Three Decision Making

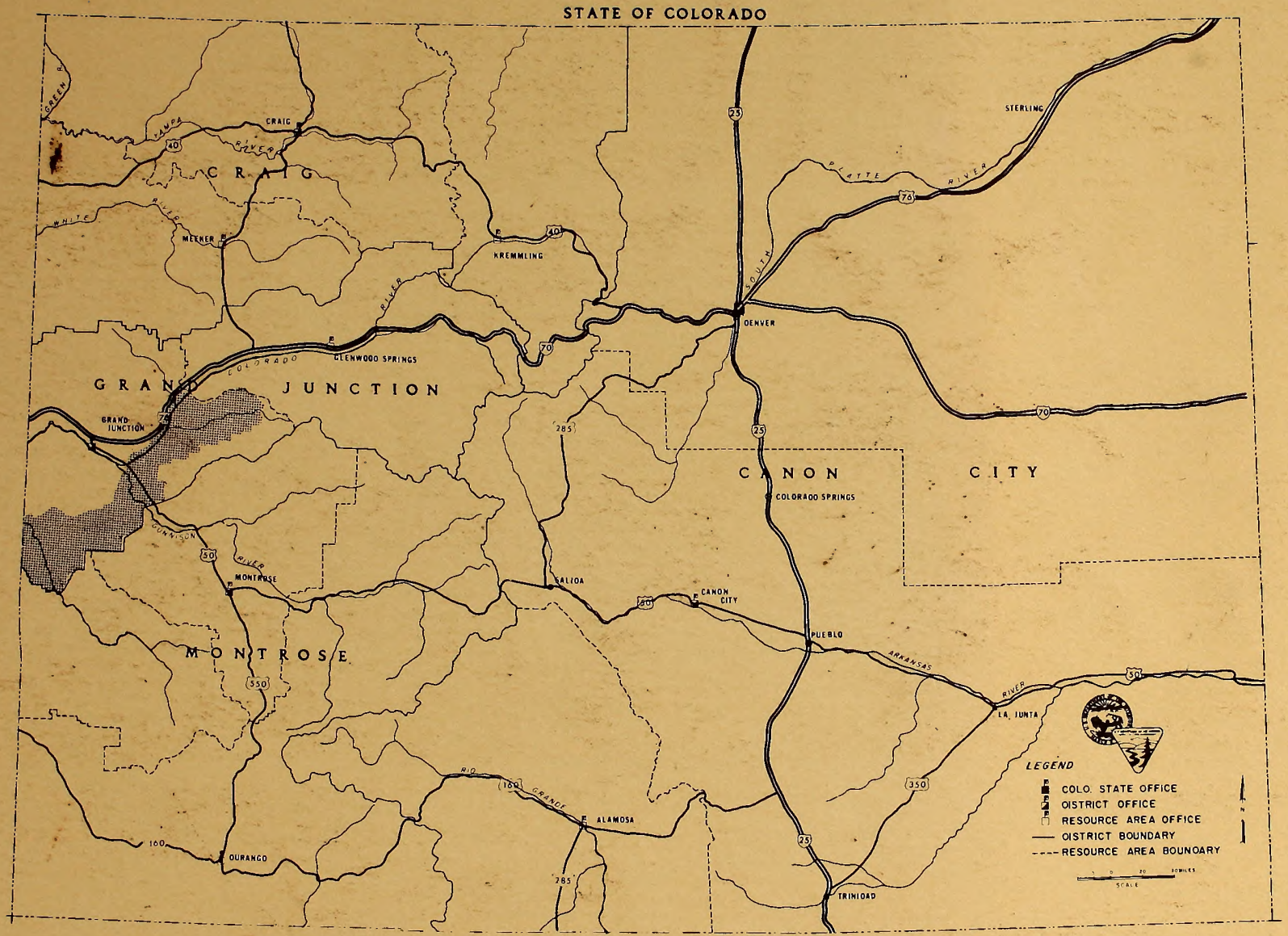
Most of these documents are in loose-leaf form, and as working tools they are sharpened continually. BLM Personnel will be happy to show them to you and will gladly explain any points that are not clear.

Allotment Management Plan (AMP): A program of action designed to secure the best practicable use of range. Usually based upon a rest-rotation system of grazing.

Animal-Unit-Month (AUM): The amount of forage which is necessary for the complete sustenance of one cow or five sheep for a period of one month; also, a unit of measurement of grazing privileges within districts which represent the privilege of grazing one cow or five sheep for a period of one month. Usually abbreviated "AUM".

Habitat Management Plan (HMP): A written and officially approved plan for a specific area of public lands which identifies wildlife habitat and relative objectives and establishes a sequence of actions for achieving objectives and evaluating results.

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1977—781-378/121 REGION NO. 8


STATE OF COLORADO
GREEN R.
CRAIG
YAMPA RIVER
CRAIG
WHITE RIVER
MEEKER
KREMMLING
COLORADO RIVER
GLENWOOD SPRINGS
GRAND JUNCTION
GRAND JUNCTION
GUNNISON RIVER
MONTROSE
MONTROSE
SALIDA
CANON CITY
DENVER
SOUTH PLATTE RIVER
STERLING
COLORADO SPRINGS
CANON CITY
PUEBLO
ARKANSAS RIVER
LA JUNTA
RIO GRANDE
ALAMOSA
DURANGO
TRINIDAD
LEGEND
COLO. STATE OFFICE
DISTRICT OFFICE
RESOURCE AREA OFFICE
DISTRICT BOUNDARY
RESOURCE AREA BOUNDARY
SCALE